

Kuwait to start trials on Saturday

KUWAIT (R) — Public trials will start on Saturday of more than 200 people accused of collaborating with Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait, officials said Wednesday. The officials said the press would be invited to attend the trials but did not say how long they were expected to last. Hundreds of people, most of them Palestinians, were detained on charges of collaboration after Iraqi troops withdrew at the end of February. Acting Attorney-General Hamad al Othman said on Monday that anyone found guilty of espionage during Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate would be executed. Mr. Othman said the general prosecution office was looking into about 900 cases, including more than 200 of alleged collaboration. Government officials said eight Kuwaiti army officers who participated in a government during the early days of occupation had surrendered. They were also expected to stand trial soon. A Pro-Baghdad government took office in Kuwait a few days after the Iraqi invasion last Aug. 2. It soon collapsed and Iraq annexed the emirate as its 19th province.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Volume 16 Number 4701

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 16-17, 1991, THI AL QU'DEH 2-3, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Jordan likely to get lesser aid than projected

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Several countries, among them Jordan, most seriously affected by the Gulf war are not likely to get as much financial aid as they were previously estimated to need, U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury David Mulford says. The 26-nation Gulf Crisis Financial Coordination Group has secured \$16,100 million in commitments for exceptional financing for Gulf war-affected countries, of which \$11,700 million has been pledged to the "front line states" of Egypt, Turkey and Jordan, Mr. Mulford told the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. But Mr. Mulford said that the \$1,300 million pledged by nations in the coordination group for Jordan is almost \$3,000 million short of what the coordination group had estimated Jordan needed, and so far the country has received only \$593 million of the amount pledged.

Nathan put on trial

RAMLE (AP) — Peace crusader Abie Nathan, on a hunger strike to protest a law forbidding meetings with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders, was put on trial Wednesday for meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last year in Tunis. Mr. Nathan began his water-only fast at a Tel Aviv hotel 18 days ago to demand repeal of the 1986 law. "I will fight to the end," a weak and wobbling Nathan, 64, said as he walked into the magistrate's court in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramle. Mr. Nathan, owner of the "Voice of Peace" radio station that operates from a ship anchored off Tel Aviv, was indicted last July for two meetings with the PLO chairman on March 10 and 16, 1990.

Israel builds road in South Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — Israel has started building a 12-kilometre long road in the area it controls in South Lebanon, security sources said Wednesday. They said the road linked the villages of Tell Al Nahas and Shebaa, three kilometres north of Israel. Witnesses said an Israeli crew had arrived in the area to asphalt the road, which runs in places five kilometres inside Lebanese territory. Some 1,000 Israeli soldiers and their local militia allies, the 3,000-man South Lebanon Army, patrol the buffer zone set up in 1985. Lebanon's reviving central government has gained control of about a quarter of the country after the chaos of civil war.

Bush unusually tired with thyroid condition

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has been unusually tired as he battles a thyroid condition, and has been "taking it pretty easy," his spokesman said Wednesday. "The thyroid condition just takes the energy out of you," said Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater. The president, usually very active, has been putting time into his schedule to rest between meetings, although he does not take naps, Mr. Fitzwater told reporters. Mr. Bush rests in an easy chair in the study off the Oval Office, he said. Mr. Bush, on medication to control the thyroid condition caused by an immune system disorder called Graves' disease, is expected to feel somewhat slow until his body gets more accustomed to the medication and its effect on the thyroid.

Voting begins in Yemeni referendum

SANAA (R) — Yemenis began voting on a new constitution on Wednesday in a referendum opposed by conservatives fearing a threat to Islamic influence in the newly-united country. Islamic groups concerned over the possible imposition of former South Yemen's socialist views on the new system have called for a boycott of the referendum. Several Yemeni parties and political groups, including the Yemeni Grouping for Reform and the League of the Sons of Yemen, which oppose the referendum, agreed Tuesday night to keep opposition in the frame of democratic dialogue.

Baker holds critical talks with Israelis, works on document

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, nearing the end of his troubled Middle East peace mission, held critical back-to-back meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Wednesday.

Israeli radio, without explanation, reported they were putting "understandings" on the proposed regional peace conference into writing.

The report could signal progress in Mr. Baker's effort to set up a peace conference. Foreign Minister David Levy, returning from talks with European foreign ministers in Brussels, joined the afternoon session.

Another Israeli official, without elaboration, said "something is cooking."

Between the two rounds, Mr. Baker took a break of nearly three hours for lunch and rest. He is feeling the effects of a slight flu that hit him two days ago in Cairo.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens participated in part of the talks. It was reported that Mr. Baker was trying to persuade the Israeli leaders to endorse a document

listing points of Arab-Israeli agreement on the terms of a peace conference.

Mr. Baker met three times with Mr. Shamir.

Mr. Levy said the four — Mr. Shamir, Mr. Arens, Mr. Baker and himself — would meet again on Thursday to complete their work on the document. It would set out all the points agreed between Israel and Arab states over the proposed peace and also define the remaining points of disagreement.

"We are trying to formulate and summarise the understandings between the United States and Israel. I hope that we will summarise them with understanding and optimism," said Mr. Levy.

Mr. Baker, asked if he made progress, replied: "I think so, yes."

Mr. Baker reported by telephone to President George Bush, a U.S. official said.

"We are still working," Mr. Baker said as he returned to his hotel after the second session. Senior U.S. officials remained in Mr. Shamir's office to continue

discussions with Israeli officials. An Israeli official said: "Baker presented points of understanding and points of dissension. They are looking at possible common denominators."

He said that if enough progress was made, Mr. Baker might decide to send an emissary to Jordan to elicit a reaction from the Kingdom.

Mr. Baker met Mr. Shamir and Mr. Arens for two hours in the morning. Later they were joined by Mr. Levy for another two-hour session in the afternoon.

Mr. Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner told reporters the atmosphere at the talks was "business-like" but declined to give any details on their content.

"The secretary will return tonight if there is a need. If not we will meet again tomorrow," Mr. Pazner said.

Earlier this week a senior U.S. official said that Mr. Baker would know exactly where he stood at the end of his peace mission which is scheduled to wind up on Thursday.

(Continued on page 5)

PLO upbeat after meetings with Bessmertnykh, Baker

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) gave an upbeat assessment of meetings on Wednesday between Palestinians and the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers, saying there were real opportunities to overcome the obstacles to Middle East peace talks.

Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, met Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh in Geneva on Tuesday, while in occupied Jerusalem U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met three prominent Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Nabil Amru, the PLO ambassador in Moscow, said: "It is possible to say that opportunities really exist to overcome the obstacles and start procedural steps, except that several questions remain which require more consultations."

In a written statement sent to Reuters, Mr. Amru said Mr. Arafat had received a detailed report on Mr. Baker's meeting. "One can describe the talks as important and say that they brought

indications which invite confidence," he said.

Mr. Amru, who attended the Arafat-Bessmertnykh meeting, said he felt Mr. Bessmertnykh had a good understanding of Palestinian and Arab cooperation with U.S. and Soviet peace efforts.

The PLO has left its options open on a possible peace conference, saying only that it should have the same authority as a U.N. conference and that the PLO should take part.

Mr. Amru said Mr. Arafat gave Mr. Bessmertnykh a message to pass on to Mr. Baker, whose country has no direct contacts with the PLO.

The ambassador, apparently referring to suggestions that Syria could be left out of a peace conference, said it was difficult to imagine a meeting without all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Amru thanked King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who saw Mr. Bessmertnykh on Jordan, for telling the Soviet minister that the

Palestinian problem remained at the heart of the conflict.

Mr. Arafat said in Geneva after his talks with the Soviet foreign minister that it was a very positive and constructive negotiation so that we can coordinate by all means to push forward the peace process in our area.

Mr. Bessmertnykh, finishing off a six-day tour of the Middle East, did not talk to reporters after the session at the Soviet diplomatic mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

He was believed to have briefed the PLO leader on discussions about a proposed peace conference to be co-sponsored by the Soviet Union and the United States.

The meeting was delayed until shortly before midnight (2200 GMT) by Mr. Bessmertnykh's unscheduled trip to Damascus to try to salvage the faltering U.S.-Soviet initiative.

Before leaving Syria, Mr. Bessmertnykh said he briefed President

(Continued on page 5)

U.S., Iraqi officers discuss security assurances for Kurds

SILUPI, Turkey (Agencies) — The U.S. commander of a Western task force and an Iraqi general Wednesday discussed ways of making Kurdish refugees feel safe to return to homes outside the allied controlled zone in northern Iraq.

"We discussed measures to create the same environment of security in those non-coalition areas that exists in the coalition areas so that the Kurds will want to go home," Lieutenant General John Shalikashvili told reporters.

He said his talks with an Iraqi general staff officer, Major General Sabir Abu Firas, in the allied-controlled Iraqi border town of Zakho, had been "open and frank."

"We discussed particularly those urban areas and villages and the level of presence in the Iraqi need, or do not need, to provide that environment," Gen. Shalikashvili added.

The United States and its allies have set up a refugee sanctuary stretching about 160 kilometres along the Iraqi-Turkish border to coax frightened Kurds down from squalid mountain encampments.

Iraqi troops opened fire as a U.S. army scout helicopter flew past them just outside the allied security zone, officials said Wednesday. It was not known

what they were shooting at. U.S. spokesman John Hopkins said the small OH-58 helicopter's two crewmembers saw three Iraqi soldiers firing small arms south of Dohuk at about 10 p.m. (1900 GMT) Tuesday.

Susan Ives, a U.S. spokeswoman in northern Iraq, said earlier that the helicopter had been fired at but had not been hit as it flew near an Iraqi checkpoint just outside a marine position near Dohuk.

Spokesman Hopkins said, however, that it was not known what the Iraqis were shooting at. "The pilots reported that their helicopter did not take any fire, nor did they return any fire, nor were they in any danger," he said.

On May 8, a U.S. navy A-6 intruder fighter-bomber came under anti-aircraft fire in northern Iraq and Iraqi military officials subsequently assured the Americans that it would not happen again.

Allied troops have stopped short of entering the provincial capital of Dohuk. They fear that taking over a city of 380,000 people could suck them into a political morass and might prove an intolerable affront to Iraq's sovereignty.

"It's a political thing," said a

U.S. spokesman, Colonel Don Kirchoffner, at Incirlik air base in southern Turkey. "We are not here to take land. We are here to help the Kurds home."

Gen. Shalikashvili confirmed that he had discussed Dohuk with the Iraqi general, but did not say if any accord had been reached.

U.S. envoys are negotiating with Baghdad about sending a U.N. police force of up to 500 men to northern Iraq to reassure the Kurds. Iraq has previously opposed the idea.

The Iraqi ambassador and the U.N. chief say that the United Nations and Iraq are close to final agreement on a U.N. police force of 400 to 500 lightly armed men.

"We have to be rather careful because we have agreed on something, but so far it is not very clear, very specific," Javier Perez de Cuellar told reporters Tuesday when asked if U.N. and Iraqi officials had agreed to U.N. guards or police in U.N. refugee camps for Kurdish refugees.

The United States, Britain, France and their allies in the Gulf coalition have been seeking a U.N. police presence to protect the Kurds in northern Iraq or to protect U.N. refugee camps there, allowing the withdrawal of

(Continued on page 5)



Esmat Abdul Meguid

Abdul Meguid elected league chief

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab ministers elected Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid as secretary general of the 21-member Arab League Wednesday.

The election crowns Egypt's return to the Arab mainstream and restores the tradition of having an Egyptian at the head of the pan-Arab organisation. It was broken when most Arab states boycotted Cairo for signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Mr. Abdul Meguid, a 68-year-old lawyer turned diplomat, has been Cairo's foreign minister since 1983. A soft-spoken, balding man, he has a reputation as a tough negotiator and a believer in quiet diplomacy in a region beset by turmoil.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, who chaired Wednesday's session, said the ministers unanimously approved Mr. Abdul Meguid's appointment for a five-year term.

Mr. Abdul Meguid, the only candidate for the post, was later sworn in, witnesses said.

He replaces Chadi Klibi, a Tunisian who resigned in September when the members of the league were deeply divided on how to respond to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

All Arab League chiefs were Egyptians until 1979, when Egypt became the only Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel. Mr. Klibi then took over and the headquarters moved to Tunis.

Over the following decade, Arab states gradually restored relations with Egypt and the league completed its return to Cairo on Jan. 1 this year.

After his election, Mr. Abdul Meguid left the league session to resign officially from Mr. Mubarak's government. The president accepted but delayed naming a successor.

Ministers from the eight Arab states that formed the anti-Iraq alliance during the Gulf war met Wednesday, and Egypt afterwards dismissed reports of differences over post-war security arrangements in the region.

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan calls on league to seek strengthened inter-Arab ties

CAIRO (Agencies) — Jordan Wednesday called on the Arab League to take urgent action to strengthen inter-Arab relations in light of international developments towards achieving better cohesion in the Arab World.

Current international moves to bring about peace and security to the world, including an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, call for a unified Arab stand that seeks the establishment of durable and comprehensive peace based on the implementation of international legitimacy and the exchange of land for peace, said Foreign Minister Taher Al Masi in an address at the opening session of the Arab League council's 95th meeting which opened in Cairo.

"The spirit under which the Arabs gathered in Cairo reflects

their genuine desire to give impetus to the Arab League's efforts towards re-establishing solidarity and engineering joint Arab action," Mr. Masi said.

Jordan, he said, does not wish to see the Arab League incapable of attaining the minimum level of achievement for the Arab countries following more than four decades of its existence.

The Arab League should constitute a true Arab home inside which inter-Arab differences can be settled through brotherly and constructive dialogue so that the higher national interests can be safeguarded, Mr. Masi added.

He said that true solidarity among Arab countries can serve as an asset for the Arabs in the new world order and the ongoing changes in the international arena.

He urged the Arab states to benefit from the developments over the past three years like the Gulf war, the disappearance of ideological movements from the world and the advent of a new order. Mr. Masi called on the Arabs to unify their potentials and resources and forge a force that cannot merely look on but actually participate in the new world order.

The minister congratulated Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid on his election as the new Arab League secretary general and said that Jordan would extend full cooperation to help him carry out his important mission of reestablishing solidarity among the Arabs.

Iraqi and Kuwaiti ministers

(Continued on page 5)

Badran visits Muta, reaffirms continued support for education

KARAK (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday paid an inspection visit to Muta University in Karak Governorate, where he met with university President Awad Kheifit and was briefed on the university's development.

The prime minister, who was accompanied by Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal and Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki, was briefed also on the ongoing efforts to repair damage to the southern regions of Jordan, including Karak Governorate, resulting from the floods in March and the repair work on the roads and the bridges and other damaged areas.

Mr. Badran said his visit to Karak was overdue but the government was preoccupied with numerous issues, including the Gulf crisis.

He said that Jordan was exposed to various forms of political and economic pressures to change its principled position which it adopted under the directives of His Majesty King Hussein to "help the Arab Nation avert the catastrophe that had now befallen Iraq and Kuwait."

Jordan, he added, "does not wish to see any Arab state exposed to danger because this can be adversely reflected on Jordan and other parts of the Arab World."

Mr. Badran said Jordan had succeeded to a certain extent to reduce the effect of the catastrophe on the Arab people and the government was now resuming the process of development.

Addressing the meeting later was Dr. Tal and Dr. Kheifit. Both underlined the importance of higher education to help in the development process.

Dr. Kheifit outlined the university's plans for development and its achievements and expansion. But he noted that only limited achievements have been attained in the expansion plan due to the prevailing economic situation.

Expansion plans, he said, entail completing the building of the facilities for the civilian wing which now offers education to 3,000 students.

In comments on Dr. Kheifit's briefing, the prime minister said that the government was convinced that the development of a society can only come through higher educational institutions.

Mr. Badran referred to the creation of private universities and said that thousands of additional students can now acquire

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli forces kill Palestinian in Gaza amid general strike

RAFAH, occupied Gaza Strip (R) — Israeli security forces shot dead a Palestinian on Wednesday during a general strike in the occupied territories to mark the 43rd anniversary of Israel's statehood.

The killing of 19-year-old Muin Mahmoud Damra caused demonstrations in the Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp, security sources and witnesses said. It coincided with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's latest Middle East peace mission to Israel.

An Israeli army spokesman said he was checking the report. Israeli military censors ordered deletions from this story.

Palestinians said Israelis fired at three activists from the Islamic Jihad organisation who were crawling graffiti on a wall in the camp.

Witnesses said they saw the Israelis load a body riddled with bullets into the boot of a car and flee under a barrage of stones. Two activists fled unharmed. More than 500 Rafah residents

buried stones at the Israeli military headquarters in the camp and about 50 soldiers fired tear-gas and live ammunition at the crowd.

The soldiers wounded three Palestinians in the clashes, including a young man shot in a leg at close range, a witness said. The death raised to nine the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire in May. Israelis have killed at least 796 Palestinians during the 41-month-old revolt against occupation.

Two more Palestinians died in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday after unknown assailants attacked them on suspicion of helping Israeli forces.

Palestinians said Munir Yassin, 24, from Shati refugee camp and Samir Abu Fayyad, 25, from Nusseirat refugee camp were killed in separate attacks this week and died Wednesday.

Unknown assailants have killed at least 345 Arabs, most as suspected informers, in the revolt. At least 65 Jews and five tourists

have also been killed in the uprising.

The violence erupted as Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab Jerusalem kept their stores and businesses shut on the anniversary of Israel's declaration of statehood.

Jewish leaders founded the state of Israel on the eve of the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine on May 15, 1948, prompting the first Arab-Israeli war.

The fundamentalist Hamas movement, one of two groups steering the revolt, fiercely opposes Mr. Baker's peace efforts. It called the strike to highlight its demands for a Muslim state in all of former British-mandated Palestine, including Israel.

Dozens of Israeli peace activists demonstrated on Wednesday, accusing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of obstructing Mr. Baker's mission by allowing Jewish

(Continued on page 5)

Experts assess Iraq's nuclear weapon capability

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A team of international nuclear experts Wednesday began assessing Iraq's nuclear weapons capability, the first step in stripping Iraq of its mass-destruction weapons in accord with the Gulf war ceasefire.

The 34-member team from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will inventory Iraq's nuclear material to determine its condition and whether it is weapons-grade uranium, said Dimitri Perreco, the team leader.

"The aim of this initial visit, which is expected to last approximately one week, is to begin on-site inspection of Iraq's nuclear capability," Mr. Perreco said.

This will be the first of several inspections and Mr. Perreco noted: "We're going to visit all the sites where nuclear material is located."

He said the purpose was to find material that is usable for nuclear

weapons and destroy it.

Team members met Wednesday with Foreign Ministry officials and technicians from Iraq's nuclear authority.

This mission will be followed by other teams of experts assembled by the United Nations to investigate Iraq's chemical and biological weapons plants and ballistic missile factories and research facilities.

Iraq's nuclear, chemical and missile facilities were primary targets in the allied air campaign and most were reported damaged or destroyed.

Mr. Perreco said his team will report back to the IAEA's director-general who will then submit it to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for presentation to the Security Council in accordance with Resolution 687 establishing a permanent ceasefire in the Gulf.

That resolution, passed April 1, stipulates that by May 18 Mr. Perez de Cuellar must submit

proposals for a special commission to draw up a plan to destroy all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

In a related issue, Security Council members are expected to approve a resolution this week establishing a war damage fund into which Iraq is to pay its future oil revenues.

Informal consultations of the council are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, with adoption of the draft expected on Friday or possibly Monday, diplomats said.

The U.S.-initiated draft, subject to revisions, threatens to retain sanctions indefinitely if Iraq does not abide by decisions in regard to the payments, which are estimated at billions of dollars for Kuwait alone.

The document, which gives legal force to a two-week old report by Mr. Perez de Cuellar, proposes Geneva as the venue for a policy-making governing council.

This group is to be composed

of envoys from all 15 states on the Security Council. Their decisions are to be taken by a majority vote, with no state having veto power.

But it specifically notes that other sections of the fund involving damage claims may be in other cities. British and Kuwaiti officials are lobbying to have the

(Continued on page 5)

FRESH SEA FOOD

At
Leonardo
Da Vinci
Restaurant

*Opening since 1977

SHUWAIH
TEL. 6524 41 - 6522 91

Bush says U.S. working on Mideast arms control plan

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush said on Tuesday the United States was working on a Middle East arms control plan but declined to confirm that it would keep Israel from making nuclear arms components and force Arab states to give up chemical weapons.

"We're in the process of working (out) this arms control problem and I'm not prepared to give any details on it today at all. But there are all kinds of options out there," Mr. Bush said.

At a hastily arranged White House news conference called to announce his nomination of Robert Gates to be CIA director, Mr. Bush also cautioned against undue optimism or pessimism about U.S. peace efforts in the region.

The president said diplomatic initiatives like that of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's faltering shuttle mission are always marked by "ups and downs."

"We'll just keep working on this," he told reporters when asked about Mr. Baker's thus far unsuccessful effort to arrange a Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Bush's envoy travelled to Jordan Tuesday, with hopes apparently fading for a breakthrough that would get Arabs and Israelis to the bargaining table.

"I wouldn't say it's a failure," Mr. Bush said of Mr. Baker's

two-month old effort to coax Israel, Palestinians and Arab states to agree to talks.

"There are ups and downs in this process. There always has been and anybody who has dealt with the Middle East knows there are ups and downs," he said.

"I'm not discouraged," Mr. Bush said of Syrian president Hafez Al Assad's refusal to soften his stand on arrangements for a peace conference.

"I can't give you a very optimistic report but I'm about where I was last week... there's room for optimism, but you go forward and you get some setbacks in this process, but it's always been this way," he added.

On the related arms control issue, Mr. Bush said consultations had begun with U.S. allies in the Middle East and that "there's a lot of sympathy for the idea of getting control of weapons."

"I'm strongly for it," he said. The New York Times Tuesday reported what it said were key elements of the arms control plan, including a ban on Israeli production of nuclear weapons material and a requirement that Arab states to give up their chemical weapons.

The newspaper said the plan also would require all Middle East countries to give up ballistic missiles with a range of more than 145 kilometres.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the proposals being discussed were an outgrowth of the U.S.-led rout of Iraq in the Gulf war "but we're a long way from having decisions made on how to proceed."

"I think every country shares our abhorrence of weapons of mass destruction, but every country has its own security needs, so it's not an easy issue or one that will be resolved soon," he said.

Mr. Fitzwater said that Mr. Baker had discussed arms control with the parties during his shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East but that it was "not a central focus" of his mission.

The Times quoted U.S. government officials as saying that Mr. Bush wanted to announce a weapons-control plan in an upcoming speech. He has delayed doing so to date because of Mr. Baker's peace mission, the newspaper said.

The United States has put forward regional arms control as one of the four planks of its postwar Middle East policy. The other three are Arab-Israeli peace, Gulf security and economic reconstruction.

Coincidentally on Tuesday a bill requiring the administration to call a conference of major Middle East arms supplier nations and to set forth a comprehensive regional arms control plan was introduced in the Senate with the backing of Democratic leader George Mitchell.

The bill, drafted by Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware, a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, was being promised amid wide congressional demands that the United States take the lead in slowing the flow of arms to the Middle East. Similar legislation is being pushed in the House.

The Biden measure would require the administration to convene a conference of the major supplier nations, which are also members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, France, Britain, the Soviet Union and China.

The conference's mandate would be to set up a "suppliers' cartel" to halt transfers of conventional arms and control sales of advanced conventional weapons to the region.



Veiled Iraqi women crowd around vendors in the old souk of Basra (Photo by P.V. Vivekanand).

Basra, once the pride of Iraqis, is in shambles

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE SOUTHERN Iraqi port city of Basra is in ruins, facing years of work and billions of dollars in reconstruction. Once known as the "Venice of the East" for its canals and a source of pride for Iraq for its bustling trade, the city of one million people is perhaps the worst-hit in the war over Kuwait and the subsequent unrest and riots in the south of Iraq.

It is difficult to judge what has caused more damage to the city, 560 kilometres south of Baghdad. Almost every building bears marks of the eight-year war with Iran, the allied bombing in January and February and the plundering and looting during the rebellion, which the Iraqi government says was instigated and carried out by Iranians and Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'ite dissidents.

"Struck by lightning and bitten by a snake" — that is how a Basra resident describes the ordeal of the city, which bore the brunt of heavy Iranian shelling during the 1980-88 war, the massive air raids during the allied campaign to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait and the rampage of rebels after the Iraqi withdrawal from the emirate.

Two years of reconstruction which cost over a billion dollars have completely been wiped out, and the authorities are starting from scratch to put back the pieces. And it is an awesome task, given the looming threat of epidemics among the populace.

"We have managed to restore 60 to 70 per cent of water and power supply, but it is a long way ahead before we will have any semblance of normalcy," said the governor of the city, Lieutenant-General Latif Maher.

According to the governor, Basra needs "clean water, food, medicine and power" — in that order — before it can even take a look at its reconstruction priorities.

"The city remained under the complete control of the terrorists for 24 hours starting early morning March 2," Gen. Maher recounted the riots that hit the city. "Our army was withdrawing from Kuwait, but they did not have any weapons and hence the terrorists had a free run and occupied every

part of the city." Republican Guards entered the city 24 hours later. By the evening of March 6, rebels were dislodged from all parts of the town. But the cost was too high, as the scenes of destruction testify.

"It was a complete, one hundred per cent write-off of government property," said Gen. Maher. "We could not salvage even a pen from any of the government offices," added the governor, speaking to reporters from his makeshift headquarters, a few hundred metres from the gutted, charred governorate building.

How much would it take to rebuild the city? "Billions," said the governor. Iraqi dinars or dollars?

"Dinars, dollars, what does it matter?" he countered. "We are starting from zero against the crippling sanctions. Unless the sanctions are lifted soon, it might be too late to save the lives of our people here," he added with a sigh. "We do not have enough chlorine to purify water and the quality of water in the pipelines is far below any standards for human consumption."

Who was behind the looting and plundering, perhaps the people of Basra themselves? "Of course not," said the governor, who took office in Basra after the unrest hit. "It was the Iranians and Iraqis who were brainwashed by them. They were joined by prisoners whom they released from the city's jails."

"The very fact that private businesses and the central markets were looted and plundered should testify that the people of Basra were not involved," he insisted. "Would anyone loot his own shop or office?"

The governor declined to make any estimate of civilian or military casualties during the allied war and the unrest saying the rebels had burnt every government record. "There is no way to ascertain the casualties in the absence of records," he said. "But you can bet that the loss of life was huge."

According to residents, terror reigned in the city for over three weeks as the Iraqi army went on a cleansing campaign after ousting the rebels. "It was bedlam and free for all," said a non-Iraqi resident of the town who stayed there throughout the crisis. "Gunfire — both heavy artillery and

smaller automatic weapons — could be heard round the clock. Nobody knew who was shooting at whom. And everyone of us civilians was sheltering at some place or another."

"Nobody could go out for days at an end," he said. "Life had come to a complete standstill."

As things cleared, corpses littered the streets and the city was completely shattered. The rebels — or most of them — had fled across the Shatt Al Arab to Iran, but the governor said, the army managed to "arrest quite a few."

"Documents seized from them leave no doubt that they were trained in Iran for years, awaiting an opportunity to strike at Basra and other Iraqi cities," he said.

Iran has denied the Iraqi charges. The Iraq-Iran border crossing near Basra remains officially open, but there is very little traffic. "The Iranians are blocking our people (who fled the violence) from coming back to the city," said the governor. "Why should they do that? They should permit every Iraqi to return to his or her home."

One of the main problems facing Basra residents, as everywhere in Iraq, is skyrocketing prices. Indicative of the almost impossible situation for an average Iraqi family is the price of rice, which — a staple diet of the Iraqis — now costs as much as six Iraqi dinars — compared with three dinars for a bag of 25 kilos before the crisis.

Zubeidi, a well-known type of fish from the Shatt Al Arab, costs 10 dinars a piece, compared with three for one dinar before the war. "We were recovering from the effects of the war with Iran and Basra was returning to normal when the crisis struck," said a Basra merchant. "The allies went at us as if with a vengeance, and the rebels took care of what was left of Basra after the allied bombing."

"What do we have here?" he gestured around. "An empty shell!"

"The (international trade) embargo is gnawing away at every fibre of life in Iraq, particularly so in Basra," he said. Resources are little and our needs are big. We can do nothing but wait until we are unshackled from the sanctions."

U.N. chief opposes anti-Zionism resolution

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday that the rescinding of a 16-year-old resolution equating Zionism with racism might create a better feeling in Israel about U.N. participation in the Middle East peace process.

It was the second time in two days that Mr. Perez de Cuellar went out of his way to criticise the resolution, adopted by the General Assembly in 1975 after one of the bitterest debates in U.N. history.

The remarks, prompted by questions from reporters, reflect his concern that Israeli leaders, in talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, have rejected any role for the United Nations in Middle East peace-making.

In his latest comment Mr. Perez de Cuellar said, "It has always been my opinion that the resolution in some way, how can I put it, distorted the meaning of Zionism as it was conceived."

"I think it is an element which unfortunately has in some way been considered as an obstacle for the peace process, in which the United States now, and some other countries before, have been involved."

The secretary general continued: "I think that this resolution has not been helpful as far as the negotiating process is concerned, mainly because now the Israelis consider that because of this resolution the United Nations is not impartial."

He said this was "very unfortunate, because Israel owes its very existence — to the United Nations — an allusion to the 1947 General Assembly resolution that partitioned Palestine into an Arab state and a Jewish state."

Asked again if he wanted the resolution condemning Zionism "recalled or reversed or scrapped," Mr. Perez de Cuellar said: "It is not for the secretary general to ask for such a thing. It is for the secretary general to implement resolutions, not to discuss them."

Mubarak said to fear Gulf foreign presence

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak is withdrawing Egypt's 36,000 troops from the Gulf because he believes some Arabs' desire for foreign forces to secure the region will lead to disaster, a close confidant of Mr. Mubarak says.

Ibrahim Nafea, editor of the authoritative state-owned Al-Ahram newspaper, wrote in its early Wednesday edition that in case of any future emergencies, Egypt will only consider sending its troops back to the Gulf if their role is clearly defined.

Egypt sent the troops to Saudi Arabia following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. The Egyptian forces also helped in the liberation of Kuwait and many remained there. Syria also sent 19,000 troops to the region.

According to an agreement signed in Damascus, Syria, March 6, the Egyptian and Syrian troops in the Gulf were to be the nucleus of a 100,000-strong Arab force to protect the Gulf states in exchange for financial aid.

Mr. Mubarak's announcement last Wednesday of withdrawing Egypt's troops from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia has generated a lot of speculation.

"I can say clearly that Egypt will not participate in any security arrangements which will lead the region to an explosion sooner or later and the only way to avoid this is to revive the Damascus declaration and turn it into a clear and defined programme," Mr. Nafea wrote in his front-page editorial. His editorials usually reflect Mr. Mubarak's thinking.

"It seems some countries changed their positions after the Iraqi aggression was defeated," Mr. Nafea wrote without specifying which countries.

Egyptian military sources had

last week said that Kuwait had expressed a desire for the protection of Western troops. Saudi Arabia apparently has decided it wants no non-Saudi soldiers on its soil at all.

"They imagined incorrectly that such a joint Arab security force... would not provide them with enough protection and they started manoeuvring for another kind of security which they consider to be stronger even if it is foreign to the Arab body," Mr. Nafea said.

"Therefore there had to be an honest and objective stance with some of the brothers and Egypt decided to withdraw all its forces from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia... it is not Egypt which accepts to be a follower to such an international force to become a curtain to give an Arab look to a non-Arab entity," he said.

Mr. Nafea complained that after they participated in the liberation of Kuwait, the Egyptian forces found themselves with no specific mission or role.

He said the Damascus declaration was a general framework with no detailed programme. The agreement was signed by Egypt, Syria and the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar. Mr. Nafea stressed that the revival of the agreement was the only hope to save the Arab World from future disaster.

"If there are new conditions which call for the need for these (Egyptian) troops, and when there is clear agreement on their specific mission, Egypt will not hesitate in reviewing the situation despite its withdrawal of its forces," Mr. Nafea said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

will be southerly fresh and seas rough.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	18 / 28
Aqaba	25 / 36
Jericho	19 / 32
Jordan Valley	22 / 34

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 34, Aqaba 63. Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:	
Dr. Bassam Karadseh	796200
Dr. Awwi Hawandeh	777665
Dr. Yousef Raheed	896301
Dr. Abdul Hadi Teyem	820115
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637035
Haironah pharmacy	622672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644943

Shameisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohamed Saeed (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (275825)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ziad Hawatneh (—)
Khalef pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Al-Rashid Maternity, J. Amn	644412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malbus, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
Cabbage	845845
University Hospital	667221/9
Al-Musharrah Hospital	

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/67

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/66
Italian, Al-Mubajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Aray, Marja 891617/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al-Nafesa Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	580 / 280
Banana	500 / 450
Banana (Mukammal)	450 / 400
Beans	500 / 400
Broad beans	480 / 400
Cabbage	130 / 80
Carrot	180 / 140

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Three-fourths of U.S. force out of Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 75 per cent of the U.S. military personnel sent to support the Gulf war effort have left the region, the Defence Department announced Tuesday. Some 413,000 men and women deployed to the campaign to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait have departed, spokesman Pete Williams said. The total remaining U.S. military force numbers 128,000, and of that number 49,552 are reservists. Mr. Williams said the fact that so many reservists are still in the Gulf shows that the mission has changed "from combat to redeployment," and that reservists primarily make up the combat support units, including pack, ship and transport the remaining troops and equipment. Mr. Williams said the reservists' duties "will continue for several months" as the mass of equipment is cleaned, packed and returned to its units. At the height of the conflict, 540,000 troops were in the Gulf. Of that number, 105,000 were reservists, Mr. Williams said. The spokesman said that a high priority has been placed on returning troops to their stations and that it will take much longer to get the tanks, trucks and other supplies back. "There's an enormous amount of stuff waiting to be shipped," Mr. Williams said. "The equipment is not going to return as quickly as we got it there." Defence Department officials have said they do not intend to pay for speedy shipping and airborne services to transport the equipment, as they did in getting the materiel to the area.

Assets seized for fine in Libya deal

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Federal officials have seized vehicles and money to help satisfy a \$6.6 million fine against a man who was convicted of selling two planes to Libya. Edward J. Elkins was convicted four years ago of violating the arms export control act. He is expected to be released in June 1996 from a federal prison. His sentence stipulated that he remain in prison until the fine is paid. He was accused of buying two L-100-30 civilian transport planes from Lockheed-Georgia for \$50 million and delivering them to Libya. Sales of aircraft or military equipment to Libya have been forbidden for several years. Federal authorities seized a helicopter, airplane, two trucks and bank accounts from Mr. Elkins, U.S. attorney Charles Turner said. The airplane and trucks were seized Friday from Mr. Elkins' Gopher Gulch ranch near Bend, where his wife still lives, Mr. Turner said. The same day, authorities learned that a helicopter belonging to Mr. Elkins was being stored in Hillsboro, where it was advertised for sale for \$425,000, Mr. Turner said. U.S. marshals seized the helicopter that afternoon. The U.S. attorney's office also has filed a lien against Mr. Elkins' ranch. Mr. Turner said. Mr. Elkins' lawyers estimated the ranch was worth \$3.5 million in 1987.

Greek premier rejects Ozal's 'threats'

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Constantine Mitsotakis Tuesday rejected statements by Turkish President Turgut Ozal claiming Greece held Turkish islands and warned there was no place in present-day Europe for threats. Mr. Mitsotakis concluding a two-day visit to northeastern Greece, described Mr. Ozal's statements as "blunders made while trying to make an impression." He told journalists in Komotini that "despite these verbal excesses, Ozal will realise that there is no other road but that of dialogue (for resolving differences between the two countries), particularly at the present time when Turkey wants to enter Europe and therefore cannot threaten," the semi-official Athens News Agency reported. While on an official visit to Australia Sunday, Mr. Ozal reportedly told Turkish immigrants that "the Greeks took from the Italians the Dodecanese Islands which were ours" and warned Greece not to concern itself with Turkey. "You are no match for us, we are 56 million and you are only ten million," Ozal said. Mr. Ozal's comments were reported by the Turkish media.

Ship which destroyed coral reef escapes

SUEZ (AP) — A Liberian cargo ship which allegedly destroyed about 700 metres of some of the world's most beautiful coral reef has escaped outside of Egyptian regional waters in the Red Sea, a police officer said. Police say the Liberian-registered Mayflower destroyed last weekend about 700 metres of coral reef along the coast of the Sinai peninsula in the Gulf of Aqaba, the right fork of the Red Sea. The police officer, who declined to be named, said Egyptian naval patrols had forced the Mayflower to dock in Al Tor port pending an investigation. However, he said the Mayflower escaped and sailed out of Egyptian regional waters. The police officer said the vessel had been blacklisted and would be seized if it ever returned to Egyptian waters. The police officer spoke in Suez, the southern tip of the Suez Canal waterway which connects the Mediterranean and Red seas. He said he obtained his information from Al-Tor police. Daily Al-Ahram newspaper in its early Wednesday edition speculated that the Mayflower's crew might have deliberately destroyed the coral reef. The coral reef along the east coast and tip of the Sinai Peninsula in the Red Sea is considered to be one of the most beautiful in the world.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The British Embassy and Madame Shibly announce that the Memorial Service for the late:

ADIB GEORGE SHIBLY

will be celebrated in the Annunciation Orthodox Church-Abdali, Amman on Friday 17th May 1991 at 11 o'clock. All friends and believers are invited to attend the service.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00	Cartoons
18:30	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Day By Day
21:10	Black Forest Clinic
22:00	News in English
22:30	

Movief of the week: "The Legend of the young Dick Turpin"

PRAYER TIMES

04:04	Fajr
05:37	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32	Dhuhr
16:14	Asr
19:30	Maghrib
20:59	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 819740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625443.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 627981, 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A drop in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at different altitudes with possibility of scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, winds

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 16-17, 1991 3

Arab-Soviet dialogue focuses on need to find solutions to Mideast problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Wednesday opened the fourth Arab-Soviet dialogue to discuss political, economic and social issues of concern to the Arabs and the Soviet Union with a special focus on the Middle East issue and the Palestine problem.

Intellectuals from both sides as well as a group of economists and politicians are taking part in the dialogue which is scheduled to cover Arab-Soviet relations and the new world order among the other issues.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said four working papers, prepared by academicians, diplomats and Parliament members, will be discussed at the session which is expected to last two days.

An address delivered on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening meeting reaffirmed that a future security regime in the Middle East was based on the process that should concentrate not on an immediate political solution to the Middle East conflict, but on preventing the escalation of tensions and crises.

The address, delivered on behalf of the Prince by Dr. Abdullah Toukan, secretary general of the Higher Council of Science and Technology, stressed the following points to achieve such security in the region: control over arms transfers, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and preparation of the political conditions for a peace settlement.

The end of the cold war has removed the elements of superpower competition as a complicating factor in the region, the Prince said.

The end of the cold war has allowed the United Nations to overcome its paralysis and gain the authority necessary to maintain international peace and security as envisaged by its charter, he added.

For over four decades, the Arab-Israeli conflict had been perceived as part of the global Soviet-American struggle and today the superpowers can cooperate with other external bodies in promoting peace and security in the Middle East, said the Crown Prince.

He said that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict should be dealt

with without delay, and the Israeli government should no longer be able to exploit the superpowers.

Professor Kapitza from the Soviet Union delivered the Soviet address calling attention to the past fruitful cooperation between the Arabs and the Soviet-Arabian fields especially in the economic arena.

"Joint Soviet-Arab plans and economic ventures have been adversely affected by the Gulf crisis with detrimental effects on both the Arabs and the Soviets, and therefore Moscow is exerting efforts to find a lasting and just solution to the Middle East question," said the Soviet representative.

An Egyptian representative, Ahmad Hamroush, said that now that the Soviet Union is embarking on a market economy and on further public freedoms, Moscow is keen on becoming an active partner in the formation of the new world order.

The end of the cold war, he said, opened the door for the Arabs and the Soviets to start a dialogue aimed at bolstering Soviet-Arab cultural and economic ties.

Mr. Hamroush, who is chairman of an Egyptian committee for the Afro-Asian solidarity group, said that Moscow's decision to open the door for Jewish immigration to Israel had brought about a serious danger to the Arabs since the Zionists "can now expand and consolidate their hold over the Arab territories."

"The Arabs have been seeking to stop the immigration process to no avail," he added.

"The Arabs are still facing danger from Israel, which is building up an arsenal of mass destruction weapons, while the Arabs are denied the chance to possess means to defend themselves," Mr. Hamroush said.

He said the Arabs demanded that all world issues be dealt with on equal footing and that the world community impose on Israel the international legitimacy and the implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Despite the changes in the Soviet Union, he said, Moscow is still in a position to play a leading role towards the establishment of

world peace."

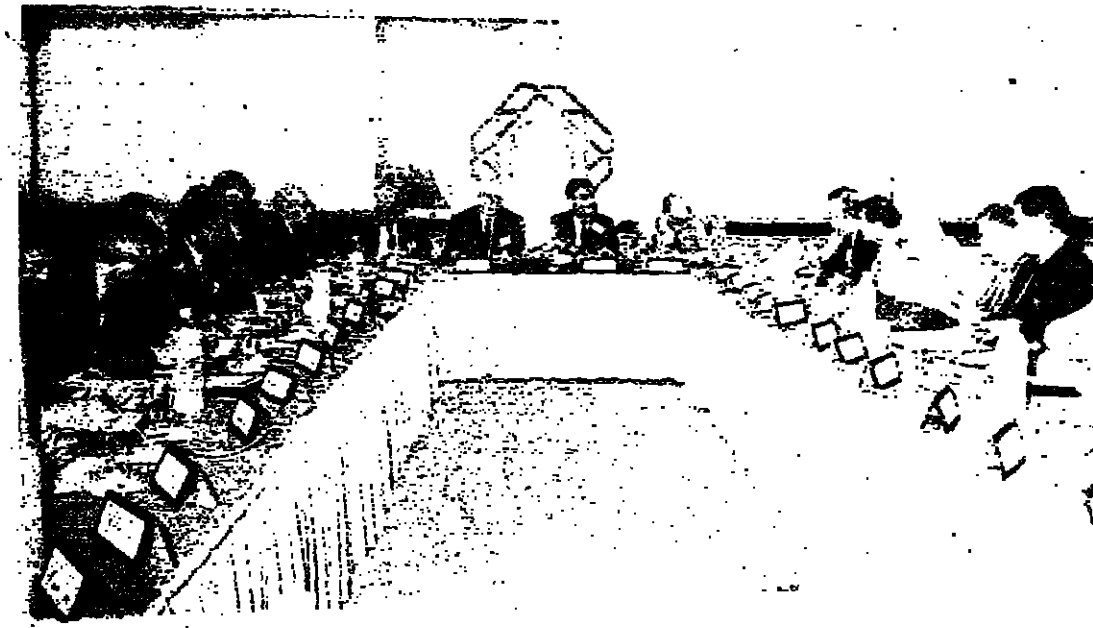
Later Professor Kapitza presented a working paper calling for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 through an international conference.

Any improvement in Soviet-Israeli relations, he said, would not be made at the expense of Soviet-Arab relations because Moscow is determined to back the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation.

A working paper submitted by Faleh Tawil, former Jordanian ambassador to the Soviet Union, criticised the Soviet-Jewish immigration programme and said that it resulted in Israel adopting a more repressive stand against the Arab population of Palestine.

"Should the spate of immigration continue, more than one million Soviet Jews will end up in Israel by 1993," he said.

He said that Moscow could exercise pressure on Israel to comply with the international community's will and to respect the human rights of the Palestinian people.



Dr. Abdullah Toukan, on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Wednesday chairs the fourth Arab-Soviet dialogue (Petra photo)

Kuwaiti embassy turns claimants away

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The unspeakable sufferings of returnees from Kuwait are now being heard every where, and mostly in and around the premises of Kuwaiti Embassy where scores of Jordanian and Palestinian returnees queue every day to lodge their claims and demands for compensation or reinstatement to their jobs, but to no avail.

The returnees from Kuwait constitute one eleventh of Jordan's population, according to a special committee formed to coordinate relief for the needy returnees.

Zaki Rizq, a Jordanian who used to work for a Kuwaiti bank, said that he had called upon the Kuwaiti Embassy many times during the last two and a half months to enquire about his position, but had received the same negative answer to his queries, that is: "We have not received any instructions."

Another Jordanian, who declined to give his name, said he was working for the Kuwaiti Justice Ministry but had not received any salary since Aug. 2, unlike his Kuwaiti colleagues.

"Isn't this discrimination of the kind practised in Israel and South Africa?" he asked. He went on saying: "What's the good of inviting to the embassy the returnees who were working at the ministries of justice, defence, interior, information, health and housing,

if they are not doing anything for us?"

Another Jordanian, who also declined to be named, asked why Jordanian returnees were not paid their deposits in Kuwait banks.

Asked about the situation in Kuwait, he said: "Go to Fuheis mental hospital and you will see for yourself how the situation looks like."

At Fuheis hospital, where some Jordanians are receiving treatment for the effects of torture they exposed to by Kuwaitis, a nurse introduced an 18-year-old Jordanian national, Mazen Mustafa Khalil, who was admitted to the hospital after having lost his mind as a result of the torture, severe beating and psychological torture he was subjected to while in Kuwait.

Mazen, leaning on the shoulders of his brother Imad Abdul Kader Khalil, who was also admitted to hospital as a result of the torture, by the Israelis, was weeping.

A 25-year-old Jordanian youth, Raed Youssef, spoke about the techniques of torture practised by Kuwaiti militiamen. He spoke of severe beating, burps, shooting above their heads, pulling out finger nails.

Another Jordanian said "Kuwaitis look down on us as if we were animals." Ibrahim Ali added that the "Kuwaitis used all methods of torture to intimidate and terrorise us, although we did not carry any arms."

WFP ships 5,000t of food to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Food Programme (WFP) Wednesday embarked on an emergency food assistance programme to Iraq by sending to Baghdad 5,000 tonnes of wheat flour.

A WFP statement here said that the consignment represented the first parcel from a total of 35,166 tonnes of various food commodities including cereals, cooking oil, protein-rich food, milk for children and infants, sugar etc. that has been committed by WFP under its relief aid programme to Iraq. This will have an overall cost of more than \$17 million, said the statement.

The food assistance, it noted, will be distributed to 735,000 beneficiaries through Iraq at such institutions as orphanages, homes for the old and institutions for the disabled mother and child care centres, hospitals, social and welfare centres and to citizens regarded as financially destitute. The distribution will last for 100 days.

The WFP which is affiliated to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said that it will supply a further consignment of 54,684 tonnes of food to Iraq worth about \$26 million.

May 15 marks loss of Palestine

AMMAN (J.T.) — Wednesday May 15 marked the 43rd anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine and the displacement of the Palestinian people who were evicted from their homes and lands in 1948.

The Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) issued a statement paying tribute to the martyrs who fell in defence of the holy land of Palestine and underlining the importance of a unified Arab position in the face of the challenges posed to the nation by the Zionists.

The statement reiterated the Arab Nation's endeavours to reach a just and peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem based on U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The World community is called upon now more than at any time in the past to reaffirm the commitment to reach peace despite the adamant Israeli position, said the statement. It called on the United States and the Soviet Union to play a serious role in the implementation of the international legitimacy to put an end to the conflict and to establish peace

and security in the region.

May 15 marks the establishment of the state of Israel on usurped Arab lands following the termination of the British mandate in Palestine in 1948.

The Israeli usurpation of Palestinian lands was based on a white paper issued in London in May 1939 which stated that Britain hoped to "establish within ten years an independent Palestine state in which Arabs and Jews share in government in such a way as to ensure that the essential interests of each community are safeguarded."

Israel occupied most of Palestine in its 1948 war on the Arabs and took over the remainder of Palestinian land in the 1967 war on Jordan, Syria and Egypt.

On May 14 last year over 25,000 Jordanians, Palestinians and other Arabs marched from Amman to the King Hussein Bridge on the River Jordan in a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people involved in the intifada against occupation rule and to emphasise the right of return of displaced people from Palestine.

South gets more relief

AMMAN (J.T.) — Riyadh Al Mufleh, a prominent Jordanian businessman has donated 60 tonnes of flour a month to the southern regions of Jordan severely hit by rain storms in March. The donation will be distributed through the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

JNRCS President Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, who made the announcement, said that the donation will boost the JNRCS' aid programme to the south which was initiated following the March storms that caused wide-scale damage to crops and other property and rendered many people homeless.

The JNRCS is implementing the aid programme in cooperation with a number of local and international organisations, Dr. Abu Qoura noted.

The JNRCS will supervise the distribution of the flour in the governorates of Tafleh, Karak and Maan as of the coming month, he noted.

Dr. Abu Qoura appealed to the public and to all organisations and humanitarian institutions in Jordan and abroad to cooperate with the JNRCS in extending aid to the destitute people in the south and the needy citizens of the three governorates which were severely hit by the storm.

Symposium tackles the national charter

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on the national charter, which was drafted recently by a general committee, was held at the Jordanian Professional and Business Women's Club here. Members of the general committee, Dr. Subhi Al Qasem, Dr. Labib Qamhawi and Dr. Fawzi Gharabeh took part in the symposium.

They reviewed the fundamental issues on which the Jordanian national security is based and the basis for organising political parties. They also talked about the basis of the Jordanian-Arab-Islamic-international relations.

Narcotics head back

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Arab Narcotics Bureau Brigadier General Hashem Al Qaisi returned to Amman Wednesday after representing the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council at the meetings of the Middle and Near East narcotics sub-committee held in Vienna recently.

Brig. Gen. Qaisi said the committee had decided to hold a conference which will be held at the level of ministers of the committee's member states.

Charity sends aid to Bangladesh

AMMAN (Petra) — The Hashemite Jordanian Charity Committee Wednesday sent the first shipment of relief supplies to Bangladesh.

The 36-tonne shipment includes blankets, medicine, sterilisation equipment, food and water.

The committee has appealed to the public to donate to Bangladesh which was hit by a tornado.

Experts to start inspecting factories polluting Zarqa River

ZARQA (J.T.) — Inspection teams will be touring various factories and plants along the Zarqa River and within the Zarqa Governorate as of early next week in order to ensure that they comply with regulations and instructions issued by the government concerning the dumping of waste water in the river that feeds the King Talal Dam.

The announcement was made by Mohammad Shobaki, Zarqa governor, at a meeting with local Parliament members, heads of health and water departments and other officials.

"The government is determined not to be lenient in the application of law all factories and companies which fail to link their drains to the main sewers to pipe away the waste, and those which fail to instal equipment needed for the treatment of waste water going out into the river," Mr. Shobaki at the meeting.

"All factories should abide by the orders issued by the prime minister; else they risk closure of their business if they fail to comply by the end of this month," said Mr. Shobaki.

Apart from dumping untreated water, some companies tend to dispose of their waste by placing it into cesspools which by time affect the underground water resources according to Mr. Shobaki.

Last week, Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz warned factory owners that they have until the end of May to comply with regulations concerning the treatment of waste water coming out of their factories and said the government would not show leniency towards violators of the law.

The law is being enforced at the moment because of the severe damage the polluted water has

caused to the farmlands in the Jordan Valley, the minister noted.

"In the past years, the water did not cause so much ecological damage nor was the water so polluted because factories had abided by the law," the minister added.

Only 38 factories 12 of which located within the Zarqa River basin, have not yet abided by the regulations, the minister said.

Attending the Zarqa meeting was Dr. Abdul Aziz Shreideh, the Health Department director, who warned that certain companies within the Zarqa province were ignoring environment laws and dumping their refuse in the river, a process which can only adversely affect the aquifers and

public health.

The director of Zarqa Water Department told the meeting that the treated water could safely be used to irrigate trees along the river, but care should be taken that it does not contain dangerous waste to plants, animals and human beings.

The meeting in Zarqa followed an outcry over the destruction of nearly JD 60 million worth of crops in the Jordan Valley irrigated with polluted water from the King Talal Dam which is partly fed by the Zarqa River.

The minister of water and irrigation had earlier said that the water was polluted by boron and chemical substances, and warned that the contamination could reach unprecedented levels this summer.



Karak castle gets JD 100,000 facelift

KARAK (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has allocated JD 100,000 to carry out restoration of the interior of the ancient Karak Castle in the southern city of Karak, as part of large scheme to restore and renovate the site, according to Minister of Tourism Daoud Khalaf.

The minister who made the statement during a visit to the ancient site said that the restoration work should be completed in one and a half years. Karak Castle (Karak de Moabites) was built by the Crusaders in 1143 A.D. as an outpost of their kingdom. Its massive stone vaultings are considered as one of the finest examples of Crusader architecture.

According to the minister, the restoration work entails improving the condition of the approaches to the castle and the front yard and provides for the pavement of the first and the second floors, the construction of stairs and the re-construction of stone walls at the sides and in the interior sections.

The minister said that the work also envisages clearing stone and earth and weeds from the interior yard and the restoration of the castle museum.

Mr. Kahalf noted that the ministry will prepare a tourist guide in several languages to facilitate visits by tourists of different nationalities to Karak Castle and other archaeological sites within the Karak Governorate.

Dr. Sarwan Al Tal, director general of the Antiquities Department, who accompanied the minister on the visit, said that his department was working out a plan to provide better care to the archaeological sites in Karak which he said holds very significant historical and Islamic value.

Restoration work is going on at the castle itself by a team from Czechoslovakia in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and the Natural Resources Authority.

The minister and Dr. Tal were briefed on the work in the first stage which is being carried out on the eastern side of the castle and is due to be completed this month. The second and more important stage on the southern side of the ancient site is not due until the coming month, and should take until the end of 1991, the minister was told.

The restoration of the whole castle is expected to cost \$1 million.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by Nazir Ismail at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monographs, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shouman Foundation (10 a.m. — 8 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of Arab calligraphy at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ziad Al Momani, Jawad Hatamleh and Sultan Al Kofahl at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and handicrafts by Jordanian artist Jamilah Saleh at Mir'at University.
- ★ Exhibition of embroideries, knit wear, artificial flowers and wood work by deaf students at Queen Aila Centre for the Hearing Impaired, Zarqa.



FRENCH AID: French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard (right) paid a visit to a laboratory set up by the Ministry of Agriculture with French government assistance to produce virus-free saplings to be distributed to the farmers in order to increase food production. France supplied the equipment and technicians for the laboratory which has recently become operational. The ambassador, accompanied by Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh, is briefed on the laboratory work.



(Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals)

"Falling Leaves Will Always Return To Their Roots"

Since we believe that human knowledge is the vital element for economic & social progress, and in an effort to encourage qualified expatriates to volunteer their services for short, well-prepared consultancy assignments in their country of origin, we in Jordan are implementing a U.N. sponsored project (TOKTEN).

This project (which is being implemented since 1988 through a TOKTEN Unit in the Royal Scientific Society) aims at inviting Jordanian expatriates who acquired special skills in various fields to visit their homeland and work for short periods as consultants in the Jordanian institutions, where the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) meets travel costs and living expenses. The visit period varies between one week/minimum and three months/maximum. Dear Sir, Madam: If you know consultants abroad of Jordanian origin, we would appreciate your help in carrying out this project by providing us by mail or phone with names, qualifications and addresses or calling us personally at the following address:

Royal Scientific Society
Economic Research Centre
TOKTEN Unit
P.O. Box 925819
Amman — Jordan
Tel. 844701
Telex 21276 Ramah JO
Fax 844886

We will gladly provide you with additional information upon request.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Bizarre Western actions

IT IS ironic that at a time when Kurdish leaders are expressing confidence that agreement with Baghdad on autonomy for Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds is imminent, Washington and its allies are still persisting in their efforts to extend their military presence in the so-called "safe haven" in the north of Iraq. Kurdish rebel leader Massoud Barzani was quoted as saying Sunday that the two sides were moving ever closer to an accord on greater regional autonomy. As evidence of his optimism and of Iraq's goodwill and sincerity, Barzani has called on his people to return to their homes. In the first round of negotiations between the central government of Iraq and Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani held in April, the two sides agreed to reactivate the 1970 autonomy accord. The second round of negotiations with Baghdad led by Barzani appears to have not only cemented the accord of 1970 but also gone beyond it. The central issue that both sides have also agreed upon is to maintain and consolidate the national unity and territorial integrity of Iraq as a country. Against the backdrop of these agreements between the Iraqi Kurds and the government of Iraq, one is at a loss to find a legitimate explanation for the creation of a security zone or for the deployment of a United Nations police force as London and Washington seem to insist on. If the Western world has the long range interests of the Kurds of Iraq at heart, then they are called upon to promote accord between Baghdad and the Kurds by abandoning their demand for a military presence in the north. The 1970 treaty that has been resurrected already defines the Kurds of Iraq as a distinct people. It also provides the basis for successful autonomy rule negotiations. It must be recognised by the West that Iraq has gone farther than any other country in the region to accommodate Kurdish rights and aspirations. Yet none of these countries has been subjected to the same kind of treatment and interference as Iraq has been. This biased approach by the "allies" might suggest that they have something more in mind than the mere protection of the Kurdish people. The British threat to veto any U.N. Security Council resolution purporting to lift the economic sanctions against Iraq would shed light on the ulterior motives of at least some of the U.S.-led coalition countries. The bottom line, therefore, is that the Kurds are once again being used as pawns to serve the interests and objectives of certain powers. This would not be the first time the Kurds have been exploited for one reason or another. The history of the region is replete with examples of how the European nations had ignited the Kurdish problem only to suffocate it as soon as it had finished serving their goals. Remember the behind the scenes deal that was concluded between former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the late Shah of Iran to aid a Kurdish rebellion in Iraq in 1975 only to abandon them after succeeding in forcing Iraq to relinquish control over some of its territory in favour of Iran.

Instead of shedding crocodile tears over the fate of the Iraqi Kurds, it would be much more fruitful to encourage agreement between them and the Iraqi government. The Kurdish leaders and the Iraqi government have already made great strides in arriving at a historic accord and the international community is duty bound to facilitate such an understanding instead of placing obstacles in its path.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

It will be interesting to know how the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will deal with Israel's intransigence in his talks with its leaders Wednesday, now that he has experienced the Arab side's flexible and positive attitude towards a settlement, said Al Ra'i daily. Indeed as Baker was crossing the River Jordan to the occupied Arab lands, the Israeli government announced that the secretary has a certain red line which he cannot cross in dealing with the Israeli government over the issue, the paper noted. It said that the Israelis repeated their insistence that they can only attend the opening session of the proposed regional conference, that Jerusalem Arab citizens can by no means attend the conference and that the United Nations can by no means participate. The paper said that Baker has to deal with this new situation in addition to Israel's earlier declared position of no to relinquishing any part of the occupied lands, no to abandoning the so-called greater Israel dream and no to stopping Jewish settlement construction. Now that Baker has heard the Arab side's views in full and realised that the Arabs are genuinely interested in achieving peace, it remains to be seen whether he will be able to persuade the Israelis to comply with the rules of the world community and take a constructive step towards peace, the paper noted. It said the objective of Baker's mission is not only to convene the conference but rather to see to it that Israel remains committed to the implementation of the international legitimacy.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily sounded more optimistic about the chances for a settlement. In its editorial Wednesday the daily said it seems that the intensive efforts being exerted at the international level are bearing fruit and taking the Middle East a further step towards peace. The U.S. secretary of state has stressed after talks with King Hussein that all the concerned parties have agreed to attend a peace conference, and although there are points of difference between the Arabs and the Israelis the two sides have real desire to overcome obstacles and attain peace based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, said the paper. But although Baker's talks in Jordan have revived hopes about a settlement and despite the positive move on the part of the GCC countries to take part in a peace conference there is a great doubt about Israel's adamant position, the paper said. It should be noted, the daily added, that Shamir and his government have refused to commit themselves to a withdrawal from Arab land occupied since 1967 in accordance with the council resolutions and refused to halt the Jewish settlement programme on the Arab land.

By Paul Lalor

REGIONAL and international changes in the wake of the Gulf war have driven Palestinians — not for the first time — into a wide debate about the mistakes of the past and how to proceed in the future. Inside the occupied territories there have been calls for a process of self criticism, and there is increasing support for elections to the PNC to extend democracy within the PLO and reactivate the stalled peace process.

The debate inside

The Communist affiliate, Ghassan Al Khatib, was one of the first to defy those who claimed that the time was not right for criticism. Writing in Al Quds in March he condemned the PLO's failure to publicise the distinction between Palestinian opposition to the invasion and occupation of Kuwait and its support for Saddam Hussein. He also claimed that not enough was made of the PLO's efforts to secure a peaceful solution based on withdrawal. Khatib goes on to accuse Palestinian leaders of irresponsibly raising the hopes of Palestinians inside the territories, whose morale was severely damaged by the outcome of the war. More serious perhaps, they were encouraged to put their faith in a non-Palestinian saviour, which undermined their self-confidence and self-reliance, the major achievements of the intifada.

Palestinian support for Saddam and Scud attacks on Israel allowed a right-wing Israeli government to unite the Israeli people "behind the gas mask inside a sealed room." Israel dusted off the picture of a state surrounded by hostile enemies who were not to be trusted, warding off pressures in the direction of peace. At the same time and for the same reasons international sympathy for the Palestinians and the PLO declined sharply.

As for the future, Khatib suggests, that Palestinians should seize the initiative by putting forward proposals of their own. There should be greater clarity about the borders of the future state and its relations with its neighbours, coupled with firmness on international law and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He also calls for greater democracy in Palestinian decision-making to avoid the mistakes of the past, and implies that elections are the way forward. At very least they would embarrass Israel if it tried to stop them.

In April, Musa Budeiri, a leftist lecturer at Bir Zeit, congratulated Khatib on his courageous article but criticised him for not going far enough. Budeiri clearly condemns the PLO leadership for becoming infected by Saddam Hussein's capacity for self-delusion and states that an elective process is essential in the occupied territories to produce representative figures instead of those

who are sought out by the media.

The call for elections is not confined to the Communists, and there have been a series of articles on the subject in pro-Fatah Al Fajr. Radi Jarai, who has spent 13 years in Israeli jails and is considered by Israel to be one of the leaders of Fatah, opened this debate. Calling for "more interaction than direction" between the occupied territories and the leadership outside and for steps to re-activate the Palestinian peace initiative, he settled for elections on both counts. In his two articles he suggested the dissolution of the PNC and elections to it from the West Bank under international supervision. This would be followed by the formation of a provisional government or government-in-exile including members from the occupied territories.

Other Palestinians who entered the debate in Al Fajr, like the Mayor of Tulkarm, Hilmi Hanun, argued that elections were unnecessary because of the wide support enjoyed by the PLO, and that they could not be carried out under Israeli military occupation. They should be rejected because they had been imposed on Palestinians by the United States and Israel; they were designed to set up an alternative to the PLO and separate the occupied territories from the Palestinian diaspora. Jarai responded by pointing out that the region and the

world were entering a period of seminal change which would have to be taken into account, if not necessarily accepted.

Faisal Hussein supported the thrust of Jarai's argument when he said in a recent interview that "to free ourselves we have first to survive." He suggested that the PLO should be flexible about appearances, but not about content. He claimed that Baker had accepted the principle of East Jerusalem's participation in peace talks by meeting him, and that the PLO's "open" if not "official" role had been recognised by Baker's readiness to await the outcome of consultations with the leadership in Tunis. When it was clear that the delegation was from the PLO, did it matter who represented the Palestinians?

Khalid Al-Hassan's plan

There has been much debate and manoeuvring outside too, with Bassam Abu Sharif's reported proposal in March to exchange territory for a corridor to Gaza, and Arafat's interview with the Toronto Star newspaper in the same month where he floated the idea of a U.N. buffer zone on the Palestinian side of the border between Israel and a future Palestinian state. Khalid Al Hassan, chief critic of Arafat's pro-Iraq policy and one of the few surviving members of Fatah's historical leadership, announced a plan shortly before the Central

Council meeting in Tunis which was much more wide-ranging and challenging. Basing himself on "new regional and international realities," he called for the immediate creation of a provisional government to deal with political and informational matters. It would hold talks with the Jordanian government about confederation and form a joint delegation to peace talks. It would also ask the people of the occupied territories to hold elections to the PNC which would then appoint a president and provisional government to execute tasks drawn up by the Palestinian parliament.

Aired at the Central Council meeting recently, the plan received little support. George Habash, sections of Fatah's leadership and Salah Rifat of the DFLP spoke out strongly for a rejection of the regional conference and commitment to the decisions of the PNC, the Arab League and the United Nations. They called for support for an international conference or one attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Criticism of Arafat's leadership, especially in recent months, Khalid Al-Hassan's proposal and reports that "nationalist figures" were about to establish a "Palestinian Democratic Party" led to speculation in the West that the PLO and Arafat might be on the way out. This owes more to wishful thinking than reality and ignores Palesti-

nian support for the PLO and Arafat's crucial role in any case, with Abu Jihad and Abd Iyad gone there is no real successor. Crucially, it overlooks the PLO's proven capacity for open, sometimes fierce self-criticism and peaceful evolution.

Radical changes are also unlikely because of fears that they would create division at a time when national unity is at a premium. The priorities will be to limit the split in the DFLP, contain Hamas and bring in the dissident groups in Damascus. In the process there will be continuing pressure to make Arafat more accountable and for more democracy within the PLO. The PLO will also focus on rebuilding its bridges with the Arab World and with the "confrontation states" in particular. It will examine ways to re-activate the Palestinian peace initiative and at very least it will involve itself in the competition "not to say no" to the Americans.

Against this background, the intra-Palestinian debate about elections, peace and a provisional government will go on. Events and voices inside the West Bank and Gaza and the course of the peace process will be crucial in determining its direction.

Paul Lalor is a research fellow at St. Antony's College, Oxford. His article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

Palestinians debate past, future

Britain's Labour Party on starting blocks for June poll

By Steve Pagani

Reuter

LONDON — British Prime Minister John Major has not ruled out a June general election. The opposition Labour Party, sensing its best chance to seize power in 12 years, is leaving nothing to chance and has ruled one in.

At Labour's headquarters in south London strategists have drawn a large red circle around June 13 on the calendars. That is the day they believe most likely to suit the ruling Conservatives. Labour leader Neil Kinnock's campaign machine is determined to be ready.

"June 13 would be an attractive date for them (the Conservatives) after a short two-and-a-half week campaign," said a senior Labour spokesman.

Despite economic recession and rising unemployment, the Conservatives hope that, by mid-June, a likely two-point fall in inflation to around six per cent and a probable cut of half a percentage point in interest rates around May 17 will have impressed voters.

British opposition parties operate at a disadvantage because the timing of any election is in the prime minister's pocket.

The Labour Party began planning its strategy after suffering a third consecutive defeat at the hands of former Conservative Premier Margaret Thatcher in 1987.

"Back in July 1987 we assumed the next election would be held in June 1991 and we decided our strategy for a policy review would cover the four years," the spokesman said.

The next election could be make-or-break for Kinnock, who took over the leadership after a Labour defeat in 1983. Political commentators say he has transformed his party from a divided opposition to an electable alternative to the Conservatives.

But if Labour loses yet again, Kinnock may be forced to resign. "A year ago we set up a series of rolling programmes to take off on any Thursday in June. The campaign is ready," the Labour spokesman said.

Thursdays are the traditional day in Britain for elections. "Only Labour is up and running, ready for a decisive national election. The Conservative Party is not," the Financial Times said in an editorial.

"If campaigning is the yardstick, (Labour) is running rings around the Conservatives. It launched no fewer than eight policy documents last month," it said.

Labour headquarters has undergone a rapid transformation in the 1980s from what it calls a "peny-farthling operation" to a well-oiled campaign machine run by a young team of workers.

Computers churn out data analysing the party's standing in the country. Laser technology prints posters and leaflets.

No-One at Labour HQ is under any illusions about which party will have the most money to fight the election.

They say the Conservatives, who have taken on advertising firm Saatchi and Saatchi for the fourth time, will have around 20 million pounds (\$35 million) to spend.

Labour can rely on less than a third of that, plus the services of a

group of professionals from advertising agents and media groups, research copywriters and other specialists sympathetic to their cause.

"We think that's better than bringing in an advertising agency which may be more interested in selling baked beans," the spokesman said.

Kinnock set the tone for his campaign in a speech ruling out Conservative-style tax cuts and saying Labour would revitalise state social services, especially health and education.

Conservative ministers and spokesmen from the centrist Liberal Democrats derided Kinnock's speech, saying he was planning to spend money the country did not have.

Labour was buoyed by successes in local council elections earlier this month but Conservative Chairman Chris Patten says Labour still lacks the support needed to win a general election.

A key pointer to a June poll will come on Thursday when the Conservatives defend a majority of more than 9,000 votes in a by-election to fill a vacant seat in Monmouth, Wales.

Both parties are neck-and-neck in opinion polls but voters consider Major better prime ministerial material than Kinnock.

Labour was riding high in voter surveys for 18 months, sometimes 20 points ahead of the Conservatives, before Thatcher was ditched in a party revolt last November.

The Labour spokesman denied Kinnock wanted Thatcher around — as an electoral liability for the Conservatives. "She was a formidable campaigner in general elections," he said.

Indian elections may change face of politics

By Michael Battye

Reuter

NEW DELHI — India heads this week into the last phase of campaigning for elections that seem increasingly likely to change the face of the country's politics.

"It's looking like a totally new ballgame, a complete break from the old, tired politics of the past," said one Asian ambassador.

Past elections focused around the Congress party, now led by Rajiv Gandhi, who inherited the mantle from his assassinated mother Indira Gandhi, daughter of independent India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

People voted either for Congress or against it. Only twice since independence from Britain in 1947 has the party lost its majority in the 545-seat parliament.

That's what happened in the last elections in November, 1989, when a profound anti-congress mood brought in the minority National Front government headed by Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Three parties are in the running for power in polls starting on May 20 and few politicians think any can win a majority.

"I honestly don't know how to answer that question," said one Congress leader when asked how many seats his party could win.

"What is going on is a transition away from the Congress-dominated polity of the last 40 years," said Rajni Kothari, head of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, an independent think tank in the Indian capital.

The tortuous nature of the transition, the instability of the process, is clear. These elections are not going to produce an answer to the transition away from Congress domination, only a partial one," Kothari said.

What that means is the probability of a coalition government, something Indian politicians have never experienced. Who could form such a government is the subject of intense speculation.

And that is only one of the potentially fundamental changes in the offing, analysts and diplomats say.

Another is the rise of the nationalist, Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the back of a campaign to replace a 16th century mosque with a temple, an issue that has provoked violence in which hundreds have died in the past two years.

The BJP went from two to 86 seats in the last elections in 1989, and may well gain more this time, perhaps even as many as 150, having fragmented the old caste and religion-based "vote banks."

The pro-nuclear bomb party has become a critical factor in the Hindi-speaking north which dominates parliament, as it moves away from dependence on the temple issue to a more pragmatic stance.

India's 120-million strong Muslim minority has been told by one of its prominent religious leaders to vote for Singh's Janata Dal, the backbone of the National Front alliance.

"They won't," said a Congress leader in Uttar Pradesh state. The state elects 85 members of

parliament, more than any other.

"They'll vote for the candidate with the best chance of beating the BJP. We just hope that's us."

Other parties, some of which call the BJP fascist, accuse it of seeking to replace India's secular system with a Hindu Raj. The BJP says it simply seeks fair treatment for all, with an end to the "pampering" of Muslims by giving them special protection.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"If secularism is broken, the country will be broken," Gandhi said in recent campaign speeches in Uttar Pradesh.

"I'm not sure the temple issue would have translated into votes. People were getting fed up of it and the disruption it caused," said a senior western diplomat.

"But their line of 'we are the only ones you haven't tried, so give us a chance' seems to be having an impact on an electorate turned cynical by the turmoil of the last 18 months."

In that period, two minority governments have come and gone in political games featuring a considerable amount of treachery.

The BJP is weak in the south,

but has made inroads into the upper caste Hindu vote in the northern countryside, traditionally a Congress field to harvest, leading opinion poll-takers said.

"The BJP is gaining a lot of strength in the north, especially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar," said one. Bihar elects 54 MPs.

Nor is the rise of the BJP the last of the potential changes.

Resentment of New Delhi, whose governments routinely undermine opposition state administrations, was a major factor in revolts in which thousands of people have died in Punjab, Kashmir and Assam.

Now there is growing demand from other states for devolution of the central government's considerable powers and the creation of a genuinely federal system.

"This could well translate into votes for regional parties, giving them more influence with the national parties with whom they are allied. And that could mean changing the structure," the Asian ambassador said.

And there are some who think the future of Rajiv Gandhi and the Nehru dynasty might be on the line. "If Rajiv can't win again, there will be moves to depose him," a Congress leader said.

LETTERS

Stop piracy

To the Editor:

MY wife Claudia and I were entrusted by an Evangelical social work and relief organisation, by the name of "Diakonisches Werk Hannover," to deliver one tonne of medicine to the suffering people of post-war Iraq, and to inquire if further relief work was needed.

Today, we were at first astonished, but later later indignantly by a statement made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, published on page one in the Jordan Times issue of May 14. We completely object Mr. Baker's assertion that international relief organisations need the shelter of U.S. troops in Iraq. Strictly speaking, the contrary is true: The U.S.-led policy obstruct all our efforts to carry out our relief work. As a matter of fact, the Iraqi foreign minister and the general secretary of the Ministry of Health gave us permission to move freely all over Iraq without any restriction. Furthermore, we could carry relief supplies to any place in the north and south of Iraq, whenever we see fit.

However, until now we cannot deliver relief supplies, especially medicine for the suffering Iraqis because of the restrictions imposed on the shipment by the U.S. navy in the Gulf of Aqaba. Actually, the ship along with a delivery van on board loaded with medicine, should have arrived in Aqaba on April 28. We were waiting for it until today (May 14) when we were informed that there may be further delay due to inspections warranted by U.N. sanctions-related, and the medicine might arrive only on May 24.

Only the U.S.-led policy is hindering urgent relief supplies and relief workers in Iraq, but not the Iraqi authorities themselves. We are really dismayed over the whole situation in Iraq, and over the misery and distress of the Iraqi people caused by a devastating war. We are equally distressed by this senseless prolongation and the continuation of the embargo which may result in nothing but harm and suffering to the people of Iraq.

We charge all those who started or supported the war with a horrible crime. A war that has not solved any problem in the Middle East, but had on the contrary created new problems. Civil war and fleeing refugees are consequences of that senseless war. We also accuse them of another crime. Their pursuit of war and their hindrance of the transfer of relief aid to the suffering people, the innocent children in particular, which may result in the death of thousands or may be tens of thousands if nobody stopped this piracy in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Claudia and Herbert Meyer Bader
Aqaba Hotel
Aqaba

Weekender

May 16, 1991

Published Every Thursday

Saddam Art Centre displays more than 'art in war'

A reflection of life in Iraq

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAGHDAD — Feelings of anger and betrayal still dominate the atmosphere in this capital of culture and art. People's feelings of frustration about their "fate" have lingered on and an increased humidity in the atmosphere has added to their woes. There has been little chance for most Iraqis to "let off steam", except perhaps for some Baghdad artists.

These have found a way to channel their and their people's frustrations and disgust with the war by doing art work on the city's walls and museums.

One of the most powerful and impressive displays of "anger" can be seen at the Saddam Art Centre, a government-run exhibition centre.

The five-storey building holds a permanent collection of paintings, sculptures and ceramics of some of Iraq's most avant garde artists. It is on the first floor that visitors find the "anti-war exhibit."

Consisting mostly of poster art, the exhibit tells the story of Iraq since Aug. 2, the economic sanctions, and of a world "allied" against one man and his country.

Artists played heavily on the theme of the economic embargo, concentrating in their portrayals on sanctions restricting the importation of milk powder for children.

While U.S. President George Bush was the target of many cartoons, depicting him as an evil person the United Nations hardly fared better.

Blood-stained and abandoning those in need, the U.N. stamp bears the Star of David and the initials of the U.S. canvass after canvass tells the story of children in need of milk, children abandoned by the world community.

A poster showing American rifles pointed at the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, in Mecca, portrays the perceived invasion of sacred territory by unbelievers. In Iraq as in most of the Muslim World the presence of non-Muslim soldiers in Saudi Arabia was seen as outrageous.

The "Evil That Is America" is portrayed by a scorpion dressed in the American flag, wearing George Bush's spectacles.

The disillusionment with "Arab brotherhood" which "defected" to the West is well portrayed on a canvas showing a red and white Arab headdress with a painted mask where a face should have been. The intifada and the Palestine conflict are among the main themes portrayed by Iraqi artists. Children in tears, children with stones all are there in life size form to testify on another of the Arab World's tragedies.

Another poster shows black soldier boots with the flags of the U.S., Britain, Israel and the Arab allies on them converge to form the Swastika.

A ceramic creation by an unknown artist shows a dirt stained hand emerging out of the rubble clutching a telephone.



The sad eyes of an Iraqi child in the foreground of an exploding mountain.

The art works on display at the Saddam Art Centre show more than "art in war" in the strictest sense. They are very much a reflection of life in Iraq today. A huge canvass portrays a volcano; draws in the foreground of an exploding mountain are a child's sad eyes, very sad eyes.



The Arab brothers are unmasked.

Criminal investigation by computer

By Philippe Donnaes.

PARIS — Since antiquity, identification by fingerprints has been known as an unfalsifiable signature. As such, it was used as a means of recognition by the Egyptians and the Chinese. It is a theoretically perfect system which has, unfortunately fallen prey to its own performance.

Each specialist needs endless patience in order to cope with the exponential growth of fingerprint files. This is all the more complicated as they are not centralised and as the different cataloguing systems make it a real obstacle course to sift through.

This can be illustrated by the following example. After coming across a stolen car, the police in Nice found the print of a left-hand index finger. After going through their file of individual fingerprints, they discovered that it did not correspond to that of any suspect. That same day, Mr. Dupond was arrested for a minor offence in Paris

where his surname did not figure in any alphanumerical archive (on his civil status and including any previous offences) or fingerprint archive. The result was that the offender ended up being released, although he did in fact figure in various police departments in Nice and Paris under the name of Martin.

With this new automated fingerprint processing system, which was developed by the French company Morpho Systèmes and which is being installed at the French Ministry of the Interior, it should be possible to avoid such a situation in future.

From early this year, the French National Police and the prefecture headquarters have been able to use a unique database, centralising 4 million individuals. The computer will be able to operate on 32 million fingerprints and compare them with those of suspects, in real time. Previously this would have taken

teams of several people months of work.

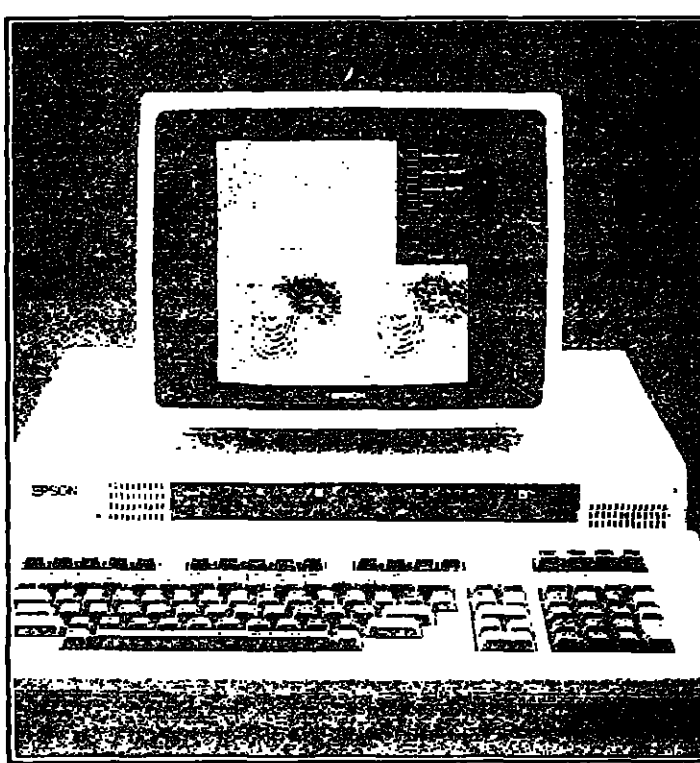
The system combines computer technology with the latest progress in picture processing. The computer analyses the fingerprint which has been recorded numerically in the form of ten-finger sequences. If the person in question is physically present, then his fingerprints are recorded by a system of optical scanning.

The fingerprint is then processed by a specific algorithm which converts it into a series of dots, a curve, a loop, a cut, a fork or a break in the lines on the skin. The computer then delves into its memory to present the specialist with a list of fingerprints similar to the one being identified. Two fingerprints are considered to be similar if they have 12 to 17 characteristic points in common.

However, the computer merely helps in the identification and it never replaces the expert who remains the only

person qualified to decree that two fingerprints come from the same finger. In addition to considerably cutting down on the time required to go through the files, the user has a powerful tool at his disposal which simplifies his job and, in the case of poor quality prints, there are a certain number of functions to help him: a quality control, a zoom, an electronic contrast enhancer, and presentation with different levels of greys. Thanks to a special microchip, the system is also able to compare incomplete prints.

Morpho-Systèmes, which has worked with IBM since 1987, has already gained considerable success across the Atlantic where it has set up its first subsidiary Namsi. Its latest achievement has been to sign contracts with the police in Hong-Kong and in Austria as well as in provinces in the Spanish Basque country — L'Actualité En France.



A new automatic fingerprint processing system is able to compare millions of data in a few seconds.

Swedish scientist finds 1 million missing Chinese girls

By Lars Foyer
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — A Swedish statistician has brought more than one million Chinese girls back to life, dispelling suspicions of massive female infanticide in China.

"We have found the girls in our computer," Sten Johansson, chief of Sweden's Central Bureau of Statistics, told Reuters in an interview.

A study done by Johansson and his colleagues showed more than one million girls — many of whom were believed killed by their parents as an indirect result of China's strict family planning policy — had been secretly adopted by foster parents.

"It would be a terrible judgement over Chinese culture if it were so that infant girls were killed on a large scale. Our study goes a long

way to disproving that," he said, peering over half-moon spectacles.

Johansson's study "on intriguing sex ratios among live births in China in the 1980s" was approved by a panel of reviewers before publication in the International Journal of Official Statistics earlier this year.

The study was prompted by the abnormally high number of boys among reported births in China, a riddle which has puzzled demographers for years.

Statisticians agree that for every 100 girls, between 105 and 106 boys are born — nature's bias is thought to be a way of compensating for the higher rates of miscarriage, stillbirth and infant mortality among boys.

But an official Chinese fertility survey published in 1988 showed sex ratios of up to 120

boys per 100 girls among children born between 1980 and 1987.

"This is of course impossible. The Chinese are biologically no different from everybody else," said Johansson, who has adorned his Stockholm office with Chinese prints.

The figures implied some 2.5 million female births were never reported between 1980-87. Demographers had concluded the girls were either killed or hidden.

"We asked ourselves: Whatever happened to all these girls? One alternative which had not been examined before was that some were given away for adoption," Johansson said.

Their search was inspired by a Chinese folktale in which a couple leave their newborn child in the woods after telling a friend from another village to look for

something special at a certain time and place.

"The finder of the child can rush home to his village and say he saved a little girl and become a hero. He can then offer to take care of the child and be a hero again," Johansson said.

Johansson, his Swedish colleague Ola Nygren and Chinese demographer Zhao Xuan, the first scientists with full access to the survey, began to examine the adoption data — and found the vast majority were girls.

In the survey, only foster parents report the adopted children. As officially registered Chinese adoptions number only an annual 10,000, these informal adoptions must be added to the birth data, Johansson said.

The discovery accounted for about half of the 2.5 million missing girls.

Johansson said he believed

scrutiny of China's 1990 census, which registered 13 million people more than expected, would confirm the theory that many of the girls still "missing" were with their parents.

But female infanticide by parents who wanted a boy to help provide and to continue the family name remained a third likely factor, although not as important as previously thought.

"China has a long history of this. There are numerous reports by missionaries and anthropologists about infanticide in China on a rather large scale in the 1920s and 1930s," he said.

Chinese policy recommends only one child and does not allow more than two for most families in an effort to control the country's population, now 1.13 billion.

"It has been said many

Chinese kill their first child if it is a girl to retain the chance of getting a boy within the one-child policy. We found no evidence of that," Johansson said.

The reported sex ration is normal for first-born children, deviates slightly for the second and is far out of range for third and fourth infants, he noted.

"This is a clear reflection of family policies. The first child is allowed, and in rural areas the authorities will not make any trouble over a second child if the first was a girl," Johansson said.

"The sanctions start with the third child, which may be the result of an unwanted pregnancy. The material indicates that if it is a boy, the parents will keep it and accept the fines or other sanctions. If it is a girl, they won't," he said.

Snippets from Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand

WHEN THE Iraqi Information Ministry announced last week an end to all forms of press censorship on news transmitted from Baghdad, at least a number of the journalists faced the same problem: So far they had been getting away with cursory reports to send back home, blaming censorship. But now, with no censorship, they had better produce "good stuff." That meant moving out of the cool comfort of the Al Rashid lobby and legging it out on the streets.

Meanwhile, an Information Ministry official was overheard telling a journalist how to do his job. Quite rightfully so, since the pressman was reporting that the ministry was "claiming" that it was no longer insisting on sending its "minders" (guides) with journalists everywhere.

"Do you see any one of us breathing down the necks of the photographers transmitting pictures or television footage?" asked the official. "Why don't you go out and see whether anyone follows you, instead of reporting our 'claim.' That way you can report that we are not simply claiming. That is good journalism. Don't you agree?"

JOURNALISTS were taken on a trip last week to the northern Iraqi town of Dohuk and beyond to the border town of Aneshki, where, they were told, the president's summer palace was to be blown up since the Iraqis did not want the strategic building atop a hill to be taken over by the allied forces who had moved in that morning ostensibly to set up "safe havens" for Kurdish refugees.

At Aneshki, the journalists waited for the palace to go up in flames, but then it transpired that the government had changed its mind. In the meantime, they had a ringside view of British, French and Dutch soldiers parading up and down the mountain track in front of the palace in military vehicles. One of the journalists asked a British officer whether he had a visa to enter Iraqi territory. "We don't bother with such things," came the answer.

Was the officer among the troops stationed in Saudi Arabia to "defend" the Kingdom and "liberate" Kuwait? Yes, he was. How does he feel about "defending" Saudi Arabia and "liberating" Kuwait in northern Iraq? "Yes, it is indeed a bit more complex around here," he replied looking up at the palace.

A Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Frontiers) welfare group jeep drove up with French doctors. "Can we sleep at the palace tonight?" they wanted to know. "Not yet, we do not control it yet," the British officer answered.

It is not known whether the "allies" ultimately occupied the palace or not. But on their way back, the journalists did see new roadblocks being set up by British soldiers, further into Iraq, several kilometres interspersed with Iraqi army posts.

ON ANOTHER trip, this time to the southern port city of Basra, journalists were stopped at a Republican Guard checkpoint, about 120 kilometres on the return leg to Baghdad. It was around 9 p.m. and one of the Guards told the convoy that a 60-kilometre stretch of the road ahead was not safe since it ran very close to marshlands separating the Iranian and Iraqi borders and hence Iranian-backed Iraqi rebels were active in the region. "We do have our presence in the area, but we will not advise you to continue, nor can we allow you to proceed until six in the morning," he said. "We are not allowing our own tanks and armoured personnel carriers to continue at night," he said pointing to several of those vehicles parked nearby. "You could be under a hundred watchful eyes from the marshes right now," he warned. At least two of the newsmen glanced furtively around, hastily beat a retreat to the safety of their vehicle and rolled up the windows.

The group outside held council, decided the wiser course was to return to Basra. Return to Basra they did. They spent a night seven to one room in a run-down hotel — perhaps the only one operational in the devastated town — returned to the highway promptly next morning and continued the journey without incident to the Iraqi capital.

IN THE SOUK of old Basra, sat a woman selling a strange assortment of wares. In the middle of the mat in front of her was a heap of fish from the Shatt Al Arab Waterway. To its right was a collection of expensive French perfumes and to the left were three or four sophisticated grinding wheels used in electroplating industry. She was offering the wheels at 20 Iraqi dinars each. "Take it for 15," she said when a journalist showed curiosity. "Do you know what it is?" she said. "Don't try to cheat me, I am sure it is a very expensive bicycle part."

No doubt, the wheels — as well as the perfumes among other things — passed through Kuwait on their way to the old souk of Basra.

A TALL, BURLY American freelance photographer had a tough time with Iraqi children when he sought to photograph a makeshift souk under a bombed-out bridge outside Basra. No less than three Republican Guards volunteered to keep the children at bay and to "rescue" the photographer from the mob, which demanded that everyone's photograph be taken. "I rather liked getting mobbed," said the photographer. "The Guards spoiled it: I too have children at home in South Dakota."

THE FAMOUS Basra Sheraton Hotel, once the pride of the southern Iraqi port city, remains only in name. All that is left is a black hulk of concrete and melted metal. Everything inside, including carpets, have been peeled and carted off by whom a hotel security officer described as Iranian-backed rebels during the rebellion on March 2. Every room has either been kicked open or the door has been shot to pieces. Whole or parts of the ornate doorknobs are missing. Glass-shreds litter the hallways and the hotel's once-reputed fishfood restaurants and ballrooms. In one of the burned-out administrative offices of the hotel, journalists even found a charred original copy of the Sheraton management agreement. Apparently, the rebels were not exactly interested in managing the hotel.

"They broke open every room and looted everything, including electric switches and plumbing fixtures," said the security officer. "The kitchen and stores were wiped clean, to the last crumb of bread."

A souvenir from the Basra Sheraton: A strip of bloodstained green cloth, which was said to be a headband worn by the rebels. (Green headbands are worn by the Iraqi rebel Al Dawa group based in Iran).

CAMERAS HAD been among some of the hot bargain items in Baghdad market. But now the sellers have grown wiser, thanks to the hundreds of foreign journalists who thronged the shops and almost emptied Baghdad of sophisticated, expensive cameras and lenses at one quarter of their prices elsewhere. The sellers have now somehow acquired catalogues of their ware and refer to them to cite prices (in dollars of course).

But conspicuous by their absence are manuals to accompany the cameras. "Whoever 'imported' these cameras from Kuwait conveniently forgot to ask for manuals," was the dry comment of our friend, the burly American photographer.

(Pity a famous Baghdad watchdealer, authorised agent for dozens of internationally acclaimed watches, who can do nothing but watch his neighbour, a grocer, selling one of the most reputed makes at one third the price at the dealer's. Who cares for guarantees and maintenance anyway?)

The mirage called discipline

By Maha Addasi

ONCE upon a time children were disciplined. Today, parents of teenagers believe that disciplined children are a thing of the past, a myth, a legend, much like the unicorn and the pegasus.

Why have a children undergone metamorphosis to become "outrageous" teenagers is the million dollar question.

One attempt to answer the question comes from grandparents of teenagers. "I think the problem lies in the modern disciplinary methods, or more accurately, the lack of it," said a grandmother. "My daughter tries to reason with her teenaged children. Reasoning and 'teenagers' are a contradiction in terms," she said. "But my poor daughter still hasn't figured that out, she's so inexperienced."

Needless to say, "modern teenagers" did not become that way overnight... because before they became teens they were youngsters. According to some people these youngsters were small enough and naive enough to be molded into nice, polite adults (if you can imagine that). "My daughter let that opportunity pass her by and now she has two full-grown teenage monsters who drive cars around town and let my poor daughter's nerves go haywire," a grandmother said.

"When our children were young," said one grandfather. "If they did anything out of the ordinary, it only took one hard stare to keep them in line. (Probably because there were dire consequences if they did not respond to such disciplinary action). Now, if I do the same with my grandchildren they simply stare back just as sharply and I find myself in the midst of a staring match with the twits. Alas for the good old days when I had more power," he said.

"When my son was at the same age as his children are today, he was extremely shy. We used to have to drag him out to greet guests, which he eventually did with excruciating politeness," a concerned grandfather said. "Now, his children walk right up to guests and ignore them. I just feel like pulling my hair out," he said.

Of course there is a flip side to all this. Parents today should not feel bad when their children do not listen to a word they are saying. Difficult as it may seem to believe, children brought up the modern way today become the



creme de la creme of shrew businessmen and women of tomorrow. Expressionless as they can be these people will be able to crack deals any day. They are willing risk-takers who avoid routine and boredom because they only do things when they want to and not because they have to. The only catch here is whether they will go through school. Besides that minor concern if your kids are a riot today you should rejoice because the riots of the present are the independent individuals of the future.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, May 16

1804 — Napoleon Bonaparte is proclaimed emperor of the French senate and tribune.

1811 — British forces halt drive of French under Nicholas Soult at Albuera, Spain.

1907 — Pact of Cartagena between Britain, France and Spain to counter German designs on Balearic and Canary Islands.

1932 — Japan's Premier Tsuyoshi Inukai is assassinated in Tokyo.

1962 — U.S. Marines begin arriving in Thailand to help defend that country against Communist threat in neighboring Laos.

1963 — Chief Enahoro of Nigeria is deported from Britain; India-Pakistan talks on Kashmir break down.

1969 — Soviet space ship reaches vicinity of planet Venus and drops capsule that sends back information on planet's atmosphere.

1976 — Civil war in Lebanon reaches new peak of violence with scores of people killed in fighting between Christians and Muslims in Beirut.

1979 — Police in El Salvador seal off capital after 10 days of violence by anti-government terrorists takes 44 lives.

1987 — Leader of military coup in Fiji calls for new constitution to prevent an Indian-dominated government from ever ruling Fiji.

1989 — Hundreds of thousands from all walks of life arrive in Peking, China, to support college students fasting for freedom in Tiananmen Square.

1990 — Responding to Soviet pressure, Lithuanian government suspends enforcement of independence laws in that republic.

Friday, May 17

1632 — Gustavus II enters Munich and elector John George of Saxony seizes Prague without firing a shot.

1756 — Britain declares war on France.

1782 — Treaty of Salbai ends war between British and Marathas of India.

1803 — British orders-in-council places first embargo on all French and Dutch ships in British ports.

1809 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte issues imperial decree annexing papal states.

1835 — Germany annexes

northern New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago.

1940 — Nazi Germany occupies Brussels, Belgium, in World War II.

1946 — Mitri Antonescu, wartime premier of Romania, is sentenced to death.

1957 — Egypt bans Israeli merchant ships from Suez Canal.

1962 — U.S. officials say American troops that landed in Thailand will play defensive role and not invade Communist-threatened Laos.

1976 — Libya takes action to try to mediate in Lebanon's civil war.

1988 — Fighting rages in Lebanon despite peace efforts by Syria and Iran.

1989 — Taiwan's Premier Yu Kuo-Hwa says he has submitted his resignation to preserve party unity and to allow younger person to succeed him.

1990 — Two messianic Jews confess to desecrating 300 Jewish graves in Haifa in hopes Arabs would be blamed.

Saturday, May 18

1643 — Anne of Austria, Queen Mother, is invested with supreme powers in France.

1736 — Russia with support from Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI, attacks Turkey to regain Azov.

1804 — Napoleon Bonaparte is proclaimed emperor of France.

1815 — Treaty of peace is concluded by Prussia, Russia and Austria with King of Saxony.

1899 — International peace conference is convened at the Hague in the Netherlands.

1917 — Prince Lvov reforms his cabinet in Russia to include socialists.

1944 — Monte Cassino Monastery in Italy is taken from Germans after bitter fighting in World War II.

1954 — European convention of human rights goes into effect.

1967 — United Nations agrees to Egyptian demand to withdraw U.N. forces from Gaza Strip.

1970 — Communist forces thrust to within 25 miles (40 kilometres) of Cambodia's capital of Phnom Penh.

1972 — Four bomb-disposal experts parachute into Atlantic from Royal Air Force plane and board liner

Queen Elizabeth II after bomb threat for ransom.

1976 — Libya's attempt to mediate Lebanon's civil war fails.

1988 — Cheering crowds greet first group of about 1,300 Soviet soldiers to cross border in withdrawal from Afghanistan.

1990 — East and West German finance ministers sign treaty forming unified monetary system under West German mark.

Sunday, May 19

1536 — Anne Boleyn, second wife of England's King Henry VIII, is beheaded.

1554 — France's King Henry II invades the Netherlands.

1585 — English shipping in Spanish ports is confiscated, which serves as declaration of war on England.

1635 — France declares war on Spain.

1649 — England is declared a Commonwealth.

1792 — Russia invades Poland.

1802 — Napoleon Bonaparte's Order of Legion of Honour is created in France.

1897 — Armistice is signed in Greece-Turkey war.

1900 — Britain annexes Tongo Islands in South Pacific.

1930 — White women are enfranchised in South Africa.

1943 — Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill tells U.S. Congress that America has Britain's full support in war against Japan.

1945 — More than 40 U.S. Superfortress bombers attack Tokyo, Japan, in World War II.

1971 — Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin sign agreement in Moscow to establish regular high-level contacts between the two nations.

1973 — Soviet Union and West Germany sign 10-year agreement calling for economic, industrial and technical cooperation.

1981 — Five British soldiers are killed in ambush by Irish Republican Army men in Newry, Northern Ireland.

1983 — U.N. Security Council unanimously endorsed four-nation Central American peace initiative as it expresses deep concern about danger of war between Nicaragua and Honduras.

1989 — Deposed Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos is listed in critical condition in Hawaii after kidney, cardiac and pulmonary failure.

1990 — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker says all major obstacles to U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms agreement have been cleared.

Tuesday, May 21

1813 — Indecisive Battle of Bautzen, Germany, between France's Napoleon Bonaparte and armies of Prussia and Russia, ends with heavy losses on both sides.

1894 — Serbian constitution of 1869 is restored.

1927 — U.S. aviator Charles A. Lindbergh reaches Paris, completing first solo airplane flight across Atlantic Ocean.

1944 — Allied forces break through Hitler Line in Italy in World War II.

1956 — First Hydrogen-bomb is exploded by United States over Bikini Atoll in Pacific.

1964 — United States discloses that U.S. planes are making reconnaissance flights over central Laos to gain information on Communist forces.

1965 — Colombia's government decrees nationwide state of siege following widespread student disorders.

1967 — More than 300 people perish in department store fire in Brussels, Belgium.

1970 — West Germany's Chancellor Willy Brandt and East Germany's Premier Willi Stoph hold second summit meeting, which ends in stalemate.

1974 — Thailand government resigns seven months after being swept into power by student rebellion that overthrew military regime.

1982 — British troops attack Argentine-held Falkland Islands, with British military saying it has established beachhead at Port San Carlos.

1983 — Soviet Communist Party dismisses party leaders in southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, where 32 people died in ethnic turmoil so far in 1988.

1989 — Students occupying Tiananmen Square reject government ultimatum to leave the square.

By The Associated Press

Far away from home

By Ulla Khreis

IT gets quite lonely sometimes, especially in winter when it rains heavily and a strong wind is blowing and the darkness creeps up around me. Down in the valley I can see the lights of the village houses. Up here on the hill it is only I, the horse and some sheep and goats. The sound of the wind and the rain sometimes mix with the cry of a donkey. So I put on the radio to get company from a human voice and I move as near to the kerosine stove as I can without being burned.

If I feel too miserable I listen to one of the tapes my family has sent me from our village in Egypt. My children can read and write but I cannot, so they send me tapes telling me all the news in the family, how they are doing in school and so on; that is if they have got the money I sent regularly. To hear their voices makes me feel quite close to them and I start counting on my fingers to see how many days remain until the feast comes when I go home to visit my family. I already know what I am going to take with me. A big transistor-radio, an electrical fan and material for all the new dresses my wife is always wishing to have. In my thoughts I am already there, sitting outside our simple house, receiving all relatives and neighbours who come to welcome me home and thank me for my safe journey. It fills me with such warm feelings to sit among them, their faces showing eager curiosity, waiting for me to tell them about my life in Jordan. I always get carried away by their interest and curiosity, so I give them a more splendid and colourful picture of my life away from home. They probably realise that my story is too fantastic, but who does not like to listen to fairy-tales in the dark, warm evening?

It gives you a break from the daily hard work. What they do know is that I am able to send my family money, such more than I could ever be able to earn if I had stayed in Egypt. They also see all the gifts I bring with me. Many have left our village and still more will be leaving to seek work in the neighbouring countries.

There are still some months before the feast at the end of Ramadan and I have to go on with my work as usual, taking care of the animals and the garden. It will soon be spring and that means plenty of work, cultivating the soil, planting

and so on. My employer and owner of this place comes at week-ends, Thursday-Friday, to see what I have done since last week and to give me directions for the coming week. He, my employer, is quite nice, never showing himself to be the master of the house. We sit down together, drinking tea and exchanging personal views on the recent events in our region. There is a certain distance between us which I find quite alright. He never makes me feel that I am a foreigner. We do speak the same language although he is a Jordanian and I am an Egyptian. He does not mind making his hands dirty, on the contrary, he also has this strong bond between himself and the soil. With his wife it is quite different. She is a foreigner and she treats me like a servant, like something inferior. She gives commands that I must obey, otherwise she deprives me of some of my amusements like not giving me my mail and not giving me my cigarettes. She inspects my work and if I have not made it to her satisfaction I have to do whatever I have done over and over again until she is content. It looks as if she gets a lot of pleasure out of commanding and criticising. I always remain calm which sometimes makes her shout louder and louder at me as if I was deaf. I suspect that my indifference makes her quite mad.

In the beginning she tried to provoke me to get an excuse to fire me. What a marvelous power to be able to deprive someone of his daily earning! She thinks I am just another stupid, illiterate Egyptian peasant who does not even have the courage to become angry. What does she know about the mind and the thoughts of an Egyptian peasant? She, with her Western education and progressive thinking does not know anything about the human mind and general human feelings. For her life is a struggle with only winners and losers. I, the stupid illiterate can see right through her. That in spite of all her written knowledge she is a pitiful person, unable to make a success of her life.

I am forbidden to enter the house so I sleep in the stable together with the horse and that suits me fine. It is nice and warm in the stable even if it is ice-cold outside. Here I have hidden my savings because I do not trust the banks.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 16

8:30 Day By Day

Community Service

Eline, who cannot stand children, is forced by a court order, to serve the community in Brian and Kate's kindergarten.

9:10 Black Forest Clinic

The professor is overjoyed when his wife Dr. Crysta is pregnant. He likes the idea of having another son while his older son is 32.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Legend Of The Young Dick Turpin

The eternal story of greed, lust and tyranny and a young innocent farmer in 19th century England.

Friday, May 17

8:30 Night Court

Judge Harry appears as a guest on a TV show with the famous singer Jennifer Clark. The following night his courtroom is packed with the singer's fans.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 In The Heat Of The Night

Saturday, May 18

8:30 The Bill Cosby Show

Ryle Jackson, the blues singer, walks into the family's life. As a consequence, the family's attitude towards life and love changes too.

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Mystery Wheels Things That Go Bump In the Night

Starring: Jaclyn Smith, Ralph Bellamy

The young energetic lawyer Christine is investigating the murder case of Walker Garrison. The obvious suspect is his ex-wife Olivia, but Christine believes otherwise.

Sunday, May 19

8:30 Mother And Son

The Morning After Arthur brings a girl with him home and thinks he can get away with this.

9:10 Documentary: All Our Children

Ways to Play This episode discusses how children, from different parts of the world, respond to chil-

dren's games.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise Treasure

One of Ethan's nephews find a map of a treasure, and it just so happens that other people are after the map too.

Monday, May 20

8:30 Empty Nest

Carol is trying hard to convince Barbara to learn the art of painting and drawing but things don't exactly go Carol's way.

9:10 The Estate Sale

When the real estate agent goes to buy a house, she feels a strange bond with that house... and it looks like fate has intervened.

Tuesday, May 21

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Grandpa Palki and Larry are preparing to meet grandpa who turns out not so old as they expected.

9:10 Our House

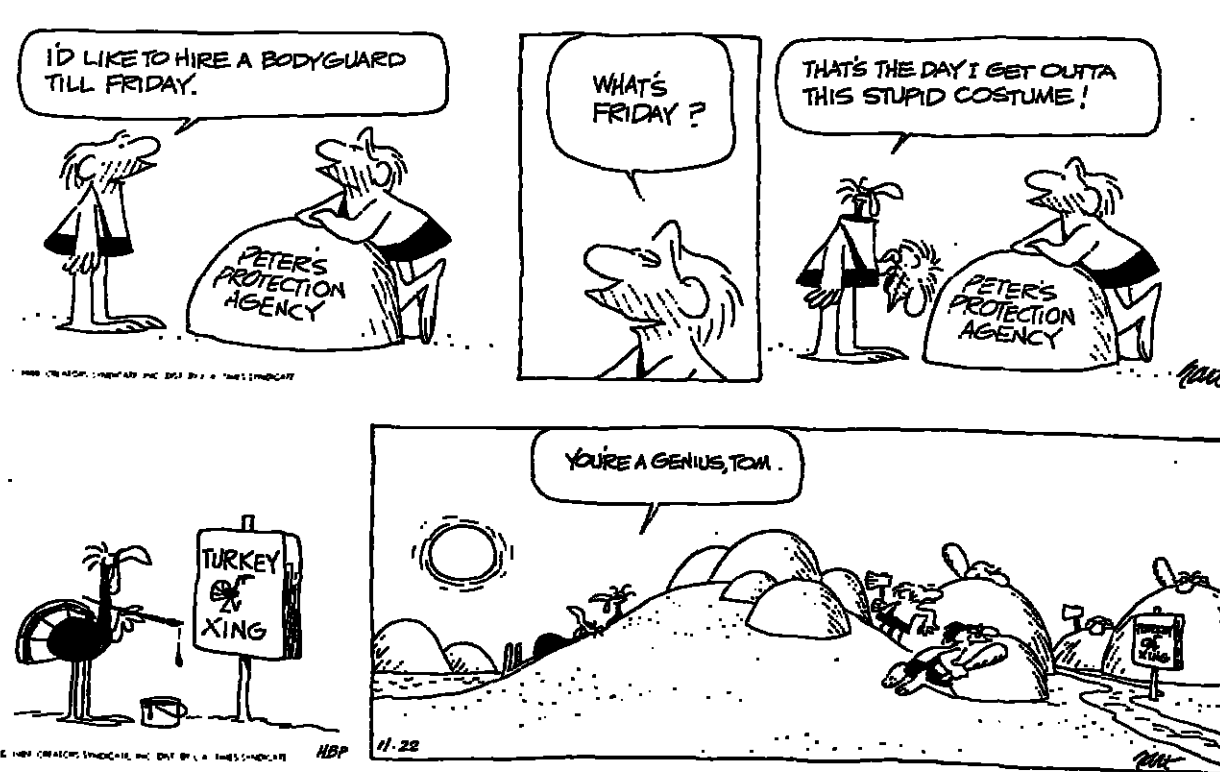
In this episode, a mother realises that her best intentions towards her baby may not be enough.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Behaving Badly

The Horse May Talk.

B.C.



Max Von Sydow returns to his roots

By Lars Foyen

STOCKHOLM — Max Von Sydow would rather be remembered as Ingmar Bergman's grandfather than as Jesus Christ or the evil Emperor Ming. After dozens of best-forgotten Hollywood parts, Sweden's most famous actor is portraying the Grandfather of Bergman — the director who elevated him to international stardom in the late 1950s.

"The last time I was in a Bergman production was when we did *The Touch* in 1970. He has been extremely important for my career, so this is a real pleasure," Von Sydow said in an interview.

His new role is in the forthcoming *Best Intentions*, a six-hour extravaganza scripted by Ingmar Bergman and directed by Denmark's Bille August. It is a love story based on the lives of the retired Swedish art cinema

master's own parents. It is the latest step in the rehabilitation of Von Sydow's artistic reputation which has suffered in his home country under the weight of too many one-dimensional parts — including Christ in *The Greatest Story Ever Told* and Ming in *Flash Gordon*.

Von Sydow, 62, has experienced the best years of his career since he returned from Hollywood to his Scandinavian roots in 1986 to star in August's *Pelle The Conqueror*.

The film about a father who flees Sweden with his son to seek a better life in Denmark won an Oscar for best foreign film, Von Sydow won an Oscar nomination for best actor.

"I like it best when I can work in Swedish in an interesting production with a good part for me. And it seems that the best roles available are to be found

here," he said. Von Sydow is also back at Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theatre after a 13-year absence, and has received rave reviews for prestigious parts in dramas by Swedish playwrights August Strindberg and Hjalmar Bergman.

He has even found the time to make his debut as a film director with a screen adaptation of a Danish turn of the century love story called *Along The Roadside*. The film was released in 1988 and received numerous prizes.

"I've been working too much in the past few years, but it is a question of seizing the moment. Besides, I love acting," said Von Sydow, whose credits include about 80 films and 70 plays.

Von Sydow's haunting skull-like features have barely changed since he portrayed a feudal knight who played chess with death in Bergman's *The Seventh Seal* in 1956.

But he admits that he is in a hurry to make his mark before it is too late. "I'm well aware it won't last forever," he said.

The restrictions of age are particularly relevant to his first love — the theatre.

"For an actor, the regimen is much tougher on the stage than on the movie set. Even if you are filming every day, you don't have to do the entire part every day," Von Sydow said.

In addition to his role in Hjalmar Bergman's *Swedenhielms* and the nine-month shooting of *Good Intentions* Von Sydow has been rehearsing what he describes as one of the most challenging parts of his career.

He portrays American dramatist Eugene O'Neill in a four and a half hour play called *And Give Us The Shadows* by fast-rising Swedish playwright Lars Noren. It opened at the Royal Dramatic Theatre on April 12.

"It is a remarkable domestic drama which ruthlessly dissects O'Neill's complicated family situation. I have never been in a Noren or an O'Neill play, so in a sense it's like swatting two flies with one blow," Von Sydow said.

"As an actor I prefer the theatre because by delivering straight to the audience I have more control. In the movies, you contribute to a raw material which the director and producer can manipulate rather freely," he said.

Von Sydow insists that he has only accepted roles in films with promising manuscripts although the end result has sometimes been below par.

"I played in a film called *The Ultimate Warrior* in the 1970s. The script had a nice environmentalist touch.

"The filming was good too, but when the movie was ready it turned out that the producer had cut out the message entirely. There was



Max Von Sydow in a scene from *Pelle The Conqueror*

nothing but brutality left. It was awful," he said.

Von Sydow, who worked together with Bergman for 15 years on 11 films, has no such worries about *Good Intentions* — due for release on Scandinavian television in December and later in a two

hour 45 minutes cinema version in other countries.

"I play a fine old man, a wonderful role. It's great to work with Bille again and Ingmar's script is quite remarkable."

Unlike Bergman, who has not directed a film since the

Oscar-winning *Fanny And Alexander* in 1983, Von Sydow has no plans to retire.

"It doesn't have to end just because you turn 65 or 67. As long as you can see, hear, stand up and remember your lines, it is quite possible to continue."

Finland's art treasures are back where they belong

By Nigel Stephenson

Reuter

HELSINKI — Helsinki's Ateneum Museum, a symbol of Finland's struggle for independence and home to its national art collection, reopens this month after a six-year refurbishment and extension.

The scaffolding is finally off the nation's first cultural monument, find Finnish masterpieces by artists such as Akseli Gallen-Kallelle and Albert Edelfelt are back where they belong.

"It's a scandal it has been closed such a long time and so many schoolchildren have not been able to see it. For everybody interested in art, it is a very important thing,"

Museum Director-General Marja-Liisa Ronkko said. More than 800 paintings, many from the "golden age" of Finnish painting at the turn of the century, are being hung for the May 25 opening.

The imposing 19th-century building houses the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Finnish National Collection.

The most important exhibits, in the main hall, include Gallen-Kallelle's 1897 *Lemminkäinen's Mother* depicting a scene from the national epic, the *Kalevala*. This 12,000-verse poem, collected by Elias Lönnrot and published in 1835, was based on the oral folk poetry of eastern Finland and inspired a national cultural awakening.

When the Museum opened

in 1888, Finland was a grand duchy under Tsarist Russia. But it was the Russian Annexation in 1809 which sparked a national cultural life, Ronkko said.

Before the conquest, Finland was part of the Swedish Empire and Finnish artists looked west to Stockholm.

"After we became part of Russia, we started to create a Finnish culture from point A," said Ronkko, an art historian appointed to the Ateneum after running the Helsinki City Museum.

A key event in the development of native painting was the 1846 foundation of the Finnish Association of Arts.

Patronised by Helsinki high society and partly funded by local authorities, it

set up art schools, staged exhibitions and eventually founded the Ateneum, or State Art Museum.

Theodor Hoijer's design took two years to build.

"It was the main symbol of Finnish Artistic life which was going very well at that time. It very fast reached a European level and our artists studied in Paris, Italy and Düsseldorf," Ronkko said.

"It was very important up to independence in 1917 — and after that the state didn't give money any more," she added.

The original aim was to finish the renovation before the museum's 1988 centenary but lack of money and unforeseen structural problems delayed completion.

"The foundations are in a very soft area. It's just like Venice," said Ronkko. "This area was outside the city centre but it was cheap so they could build this huge building."

Like many of Helsinki's older buildings, the museum stands on foundations of fir tree trunks. If the water recedes — as happened beneath the Ateneum — the trunks start to rot. Ronkko said a quarter of the renovation money was spent on extra concrete supports.

"Technically, this is a very modern museum. This is the most important collection in the dirtiest place in Finland, in the centre of Helsinki, near the railway station and with all this traffic," Ronkko said.

A climate-control system protects the Collections against the rapid temperature and humidity swings of the Nordic climate while light sensors control Automatic Blinds across the Original skylights.

In drawing up the refurbishment plans, Finnish experts travelled throughout Europe in search of the best solutions for their problems.

Ronkko said particular attention was paid to Madrid's Prado Museum, another purpose-built gallery in a busy city centre.

"It's just like the Prado. We are lucky to have the National Museum in its original use in the centre of the city but we struggle against the Modern world," she said.

Lasers and farce to revive Czechoslovak film industry

By Gita Zhavitskova

Reuter

PRAGUE — Hollywood-style razzamatazz is about to come to Czechoslovakia in an attempt to help the country's flagging film industry adapt to the rigours of the free market.

The first private company to make a feature film, Bonton, will promote the premiere of *The Tank Battalion* this month with a laser light show over Prague, paratroopers and marketing spin-offs from T-shirts to camouflage-coloured condoms.

Since October 1990, only one major local feature film has been started at Prague's giant state-owned Barrandov Studios, which produced more than 20 heavily subsidised films a year under Communist rule.

under budget, even though the producer paid the crew and actors three times the state standard rates, and Bonton decided to spend the surplus on promotion.

The company needs around two million people to see the film for it to break even. Bonton is optimistic even though last year saw a 30 per cent drop in cinema attendance — the equivalent of every Czechoslovak going to the movies only three times instead of five as in 1989.

Under communism, profits from screening foreign films financed local film production in Czechoslovakia.

"The principle was based on permanent confiscation of profit from foreign movies which would otherwise had been shared with their producers," said Jiri Janousek, director of the export monopoly Filmexport.

Since communism collapsed in late 1989, state subsidies have been slashed or removed as Czechoslovakia seeks to modernise its economy.

The old system provided steady income for thousands of technicians in the film industry. Now, Barrandov is reducing staff from 2,300 to 700 and, like the other large production company Kratky Film, is trying to survive by renting equipment and providing services for Western film crews.

The Zlin Film Studios in Moravia, originally founded by shoemaker Tomas Bata to promote his factory, make commercials and the Slovak Koliba Studio is on the verge of collapse.

"We are shattered," said Director Zdenek Sirovy, chairman of the Film and Television Union, FITES. "Czechoslovak film needs subsidies to finance selected projects, especially of young film-makers... and to stop the danger of American cinematography putting the European film industry out of business."

Pressed by FITES, the Czech regional government finally approved a subsidy of 120 million crowns (\$4 million) last month to launch or finish films.

But Bonton's approach found a willing friend in Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, a dedicated free-marketeer who insists film-makers must learn like everybody else to take care of themselves.

"When FITES whines before Minister Klaus, complaining that he has ruined Czech culture, he always gives them our address saying, 'they need no money and make films anyway, so what is it you are telling me'," laughed Bonton's Kratochvil.

The film came in at about 1.5 million crowns (\$50,000).

unveiling is somewhat thin. It's the old familiar pattern: the pains and impossibilities in trying to come to terms with one's past. The show's use of the 1946 situation to also help understand the present and to make it transparent, falls far short of its aim.

In the second half Waller indulges in the whole triteness of an American comedy show. The "Trümmerfrauen" (rubble-clearing women) swing legs and bricks. One-armed soldiers, returning home, are asked by women milking cows why they didn't write more often. And a personification of the Statue of Liberty enthuses about travel in an interview and finally winds up by announcing — in a frightfully ingenious manner — that she is a "Berliner," à la Kennedy — IN Press.

The result of all this scenic

Ambivalent premiéres in a united Berlin

By Peter Hans Göpfert

Berlin — There are very few of us who dislike being the centre of attraction. Berliners are no exception. They like to read about themselves in the newspaper. They like to laugh at themselves in the cinema. And, of course, they like to see themselves in the theatre. Musicals have frequently profited from this; several times in the case of Cabaret.

There are two productions running currently in the Berlin theatre programme. The action in both takes place in Berlin. And both have managed somehow or other to link the location with the play concerned. Vicki Baum's *Grand Hotel* — a popular "group" novel — seems, at first glance, hardly the right material for a musical. It teems with existences which have come to grief or in the process of doing so. The central character is a dancer; the pinnacles of her career and the years in which one usually has to deal with middle-life crises have been left far behind. Then there are other: a cynical army doctor, who has not only had half his face shot to pieces, but his positive outlook on life, too; a bankrupt baron, who is too sensitive even to steal; a business-man, who is trying to save his firm from disaster. And above all, of course, there is a bookkeeper, dear old soul who, with only a few weeks to live, wants, for once in his life, to hit the high spots.

There is much favouring Berlin as the location of the action. The novel was first published in 1929, initially in instalments in the "Berliner illustrierte Zeitung." At a later date, the authoress wrote a dramatised version which was produced by Gustaf Gründgens at the Theatre am Nollendorplatz. The

material achieved world-fame through Edmund Goulding's motion-picture, starring Greta Garbo, "The Divine." Gottfried Reinhardt filmed a remake with Michele Morgan, Heinz Rühmann and O.W. Fischer in 1959, a year after the first attempt to turn the story into a musical: the project was a flop.

What the latest musical lacks, first and foremost, is the right music. Too many cooks have been stirring the broth and contributing lyrics: The "old hands" Robert Wright, George Forrest — and last but not least, Maureen Yeston. What has eventually emerged is nothing more than rather insipid danceband numbers. There is not one single song one can fondly recall. Snatches of Ravel's "Bolero" have been "borrowed" for a somewhat superfluous pas de deux, and when the over-worked hotel staff rebelliously rattle the kitchen utensils, it is undoubtedly meant to be reminiscent of Weill.

The arias sung by baron-come-con-man and his ballerina companion seem to have their origins in age-old operetta rather than a modern musical. But there's more to come: The lyrics fall far short of Vicki Baum's original big-city aroma. The music reeks of provincialism. Some of the roles have obviously been pepped up; the hotel porter is suggestively gay, and as if bookkeeper Kringlein doesn't have enough on his plate already, he is given the features of a debased Jew. The story has been watered down that only a few solitary fence-posts of the "backgrounds" remain.

The event, in the first instance, is of an educational nature. In order to have an internationally-known name on the bill, Leslie Caron was



The Berlin musical *Grand Hotel* is based on a best-selling novel by Vicki Baum. Although the attractive star, Leslie Caron, plays the part of

engaged for the musical in Berlin. Here, the ballerina took intensive German and singing lessons. In the first of these she was quite successful, and she displays consummate charm as Elizaveta Grusinskaja, the ageing dancer. But the fact that she was also called on to display the fruits of her singing lessons, was hardly gentlemanly.

Why Tommy Tune, the sonnyboy from Broadway, received such accolades for direction and choreography in New York, is hard to fathom from the Berlin production copy. True, there is a lively scat number with F. Dion Davis and Eric Lee Johnson. But the stereotype routines by the dance ensemble in the background, and a somewhat lively Charleston, don't exactly have the audience rolling in the aisles.

Unlike *Grand Hotel*, Ulrich Waller's "Davon geht die Welt nicht unter" (that's not the end of the world) had its premiere in the Staatliche Schauspielbühnen, far from the glitter of downtown. The theatre is also the location of the plot: the Ballhaus Rixdorf am Cottbusser Damm. This is where Waller stages his "piece of Berlin history." The audience sits at lamp-lit tables around three sides of

Elizaveta Grusinskaja, the female lead, this milieu musical, which is set in the twenties, can only boast of limited success.

the large stage. You can bring your own beverages if you want to. The fug describes defies description. The atmosphere has a suggestion of shabbiness, crumminess. The time is 1946. An American officer auditions German women for singing and acting parts to stage a quick show for U.S. soldiers — entertainment with a raised forefinger.

The parade of candidates functions according to the chorus-line principle. The "frolleins" and women all have their own, suppressed, hidden pasts which surface at some time or other. They have worked for UFA (film company), done stagework, appeared in variety, or rubbed along singing, acting, dancing etc. Waller offers a colourful mixture.

The result of all this scenic

unveiling is somewhat thin. It's the old familiar pattern: the pains and impossibilities in trying to come to terms with one's past. The show's use of the 1946 situation to also help understand the present and to make it transparent, falls far short of its aim.

In the second half Waller indulges in the whole triteness of an American comedy show. The "Trümmerfrauen" (rubble-clearing women) swing legs and bricks. One-armed soldiers, returning home, are asked by women milking cows why they didn't write more often. And a personification of the Statue of Liberty enthuses about travel in an interview and finally winds up by announcing — in a frightfully ingenious manner — that she is a "Berliner," à la Kennedy — IN Press.

High stroke risk for men who smoke or drink heavily

By Randi Hutter Epstein
The Associated Press

LONDON — Middle-aged male smokers with high blood pressure are 10 times more likely to suffer a stroke than non-smokers with normal blood pressure, researchers reported in this week's *British medical journal*.

Smokers with normal blood pressure increase their risk of stroke 2½ times compared to non-smokers, said Dr. Gerry Shaper, an epidemiologist at London's Royal Free Hospital and principal author of the study.

Men who quit smoking had the same risk as non-smokers, he added in a telephone interview Thursday.

"That cigarette smoking is of considerable importance in stroke now seems undeniable," said Shaper. He said the best advice for people with hypertension is not to smoke.

"When we consider that for every person who dies of stroke there are almost four who survive, often with considerable burden of disability, the need to prevent stroke seems incontrovertible," he said.

The regional study, which monitored 7,735 British men between the ages of 40 and 59 eight years, also found that heavy drinkers — those who consume more than three pints of beer or six glasses of wine a day — are four times as likely to have a stroke.

According to the American Heart Association, about 500,000 Americans suffer from strokes every year and 150,000 die, making stroke the third leading cause of death.

Stroke occurs when a blood vessel bringing oxygen to the brain bursts or clogs. Starved of oxygen, nerve cells in the brain die within

minutes. When nerve cells die, the part of the body they control cannot function.

In many cases, the entire side of the body is paralysed. If people stopped smoking and drinking excessively, "we could cut the incidence of stroke in half," said Dr. Hermes Kontos, chairman of the American Heart Association's Stroke Council and chairman of the Cardiology Department at the Medical College of Virginia.

"There's no question that the vast majority of strokes are preventable," said Kontos, who added that the British findings confirm results of several American studies.

The study was published in the May 11 issue of the journal. It was conducted in 24 towns in England, Wales and Scotland. Men were asked about smoking, drinking, and their medical history concerning heart disease or stroke.

Considered alone, high blood pressure — systolic blood pressure greater than 160 and 180 millimetres of mercury — increased the risk of stroke fourfold.

Men with blood pressures greater than 180 had six times the risk.

Systolic pressure, the top number of the blood pressure reading, is the maximum force of the heart when blood is squeezed out of the heart and through the body.

Diastolic pressure, the lower number, is pressure against the heart wall when it relaxes and blood flows in. It does not seem to influence the risk of stroke, said Shaper.

Men whose mothers or fathers died of stroke or heart disease were not at increased risk, nor were men with high cholesterol levels, according to the British study.

Original treatment for extra-uterine pregnancy

By Jean Chabrier

PARIS — What is meant by extra-uterine pregnancy? Imagine a small 6 centimetre long tube, whose inside diameter is no larger than one millimetre. That is the size of a fallopian tube, of which there are two, one on the right and one on the left, both ending in the uterine cavity. The ovum, fertilised right at the end of one of these tubes, will travel all the way down, propelled by the vibrating cilia covering the walls and reaching the uterus in 6 or 7 days where, first it will become embedded and then grow. This is what happens in normal pregnancy.

But imagine the least obstacle or the tiniest narrowing and the egg will remain blocked in that place. However, it will continue to grow, hour by hour and day by day. And a time will come (between the 25th and 40th day, on average) when the limits of elasticity of the fallopian tube will be reached and when it will burst, all too often causing an internal haemorrhage. That is an extra-uterine pregnancy.

The arrival of permissive society in the 70s resulted in a sharp increase in sexually transmitted diseases and consequently of lesions in the fallopian tubes and, thereby, in the number of extra-uterine pregnancies which have shown exponential growth.

About forty years ago, extra-uterine pregnancies were

fatal in one quarter of cases owing to the difficulty of early diagnosis. In the other cases, the emergency of the situation meant that the ovum and the fallopian tube had to be removed together as there was no treatment for the lesions with the techniques of the period. Then biological, and later immunological, diagnosis became possible. They made surgery easier as it could be performed sooner and was less damaging, and the lesions were less irreparable.

Micro-surgery then appeared, but, in addition to its difficulties, it resulted in numerous failures. A tube which appeared to have been saved after an operation would not fulfil its function, or worse still, there was a relapse. For a dozen years or so, endoscopic surgery has gained favour. There is less traumatism for the patient but it is still subject to various ups and downs and cannot guarantee the successful restoration of the fallopian tube whose functional future remains uncertain and threatened with a handicap.

A revolutionary technique

Thanks to these numerous techniques, the risk of mortality has become relatively limited. However, the economic incidence is considerable owing to the increasingly expensive treatment of sterility. This explains the great interest in a revolutionary treatment for extra-uterine

pregnancy. This "almost" medical treatment is being studied at Bichat Hospital in Paris by Professor Madalenat. This extremely original technique is based on the following principle. There are some so-called "anti-mitosis" products used in chemotherapy to block the division and reproduction of cancer cells. One of the most widely used among them is methotrexate.

In 1982, a Japanese doctor, Dr. Tanaka, had suggested using it to kill the ovum by blocking the division of cells before it grew large enough to cause the fallopian tube to burst. Its disintegration was followed by expulsion via the natural means. But a considerable amount of this product had to be injected intravenously, with all the drawbacks and side-effects involved in this kind of medication. Another danger was that one had to be absolutely sure that it was indeed a case of extra-uterine pregnancy as even ultrasound makes mistakes in 40 per cent of cases on this particular matter.

On this particular matter, Professor Madalenat and his team sought to improve this process. First of all they use ultrasound in a vaginal probe, which already gives far greater certainty, further increased by a finer dose of chorionic hormone.

Once the diagnosis has been confirmed, the patient is taken to the operating



A revolutionary technique for extra-uterine pregnancy has reduced the risk of mortality.

theatre as a day patient. Under a light anaesthetic and under permanent ultrasound control via a vaginal probe, a thin catheter is inserted via the natural orifices until it reaches the ovum. A single dose of 50 milligrammes of methotrexate is then injected. It effects remains strictly local and there are no drawbacks as the chemical is not carried by blood circulation.

The whole affair takes about half an hour and the

patient can go home that same evening. In the following days, supervision with the chorionic pregnancy hormone makes it possible to check that the ovum has been dissolved. Results are as follows: in 80 per cent of cases the method is effective, which means that it fails in 20 per cent of cases, which then require surgery by endoscopy.

However, it means tremendous progress in respecting the integrity of the

fallopian tube, as methotrexate does not attack the cells which are not in the process of dividing. This removes the fear of sterility as a side-effect as has been verified in animal experiments.

Fifty women were treated in this way and four of them became pregnant again without any problem. This work now goes back two years and a dozen teams or so have taken up the process in France — L'Actualite En France.

Plastic pancreas could be key to diabetes treatment

By Paul Rezer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A plastic pancreas that kept diabetic laboratory animals healthy for months with automatic doses of insulin holds promise for a permanent treatment

of diabetes, researchers say in a new study.

Shaped like a hockey puck but slightly smaller, the two-ounce artificial pancreas houses transplanted insulin-producing cells. A unique membrane protects the cells from rejection by the im-

mune system while allowing insulin to merge with the bloodstream.

A report on laboratory experiments with the plastic pancreas was published in the journal *Science*.

Dr. William L. Chick of Biobridge Technologies Inc. of Shrewsbury, Mass., a co-developer of the device, said that if future tests with humans prove that the technique works, the plastic pancreas could eliminate the daily routine of insulin injections now endured by millions of

diabetes patients.

"It's a giant first step toward what is essentially a permanent pancreas transplant without the need for immune suppression drugs," said Dr. Richard Kahn, the chief scientist for the American Diabetes Association (ADA). "But there's a lot of work that needs to be done yet before it can be applied in humans."

Chick said the heart of the device is the membrane, a plastic material that he said "selectively permeable."

The membrane lines a hollow coil inside the artificial pancreas. On one side of the membrane, insulin-producing cells, called islets, are implanted. Blood from the body circulates through the coil on the other side of the membrane.

Chick said the membrane allows small molecules from the blood to pass through and nourish the islet cells. The islets, in turn, produce insulin that penetrates the membrane to join the blood.

However, the membrane blocks large immune system cells, such as lymphocytes, that normally would attack any implanted tissue. In this way, the islets are protected against rejection by the body.

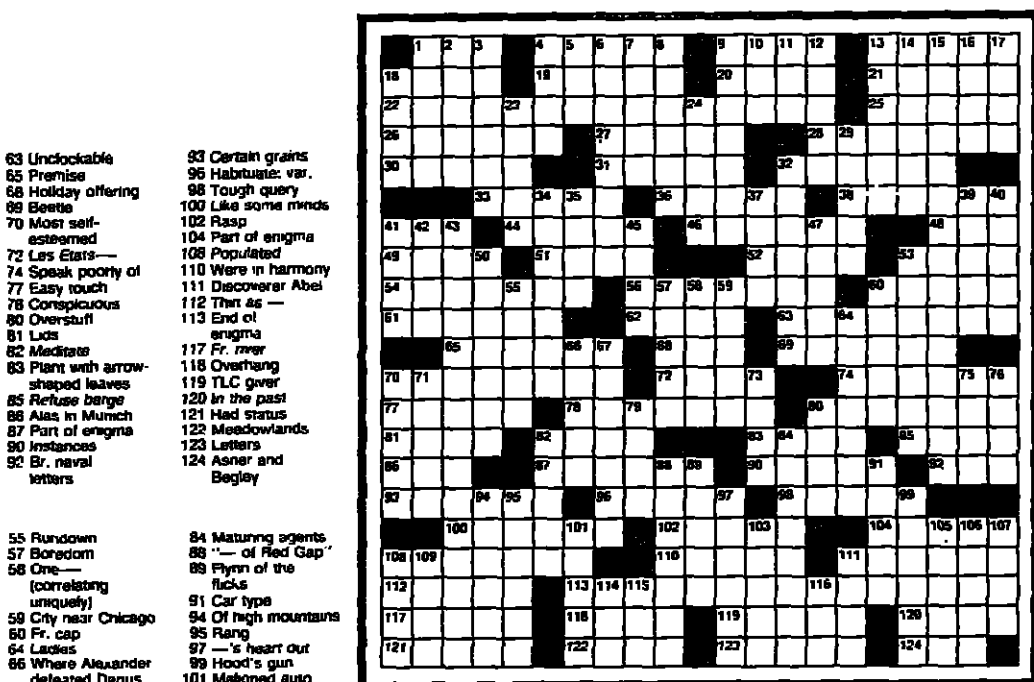
"Since the membrane blocks the possibility of immune rejection, we can use animal islets in humans," said Chick.

Insulin cells from both canine and bovine pancreases have been used in the experiments.

Weekend Crossword

SEAWORTHY
By Al Becker

- ACROSS
- Up-to-date
 - Parrot
 - Faction
 - Medieval war club
 - Continental sound
 - Scop tree
 - One of the line
 - Belg city
 - Engines with 67A, 104A & 113A
 - Wanderer
 - Allen and Martin
 - Comer in
 - Passenger vehicle
 - Valleys
 - Dolls of song
 - St. Francis
 - harlequin
 - Hazardous truck
- DOWN
- Drives
 - Circled
 - Cattle roundup
 - Gulches
 - in a sneaky way
 - Cover of
 - Cold wind
 - Emulate a squirrel
 - Warrior
 - Li's pad
 - Norse tales
 - Prayerful insect?
 - "Envy" — sully
 - of the mind
 - Retired barber's activity?
 - Botical twin
 - Norms, abbr
 - Tower town



Last Week's Cryptograms

- Hopeful defendant in perjury trial is justly cited for truth decay.
- Lightning, thunder and rain usually seem to accompany fast approaching cold fronts.
- Well-oiled conductors working on all trains in the past had to punch out tickets, not passengers.
- High I.Q.'s are not assuring success. The skills acquired in class do, O.K.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JLOB DXADLOMLM KOCALH ADHXRE APBO
ZOSMKCWD OA BLE WPEAXJLH.

—By Earl Ireland

2. XTWXYT ICCL LW XDL LOTAB QTRL MWLW
MWHICB, QDL BWEL DELAY LOT WLOTH
WET AB AE OWL ICLTH.

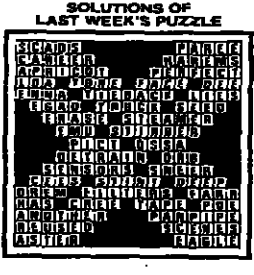
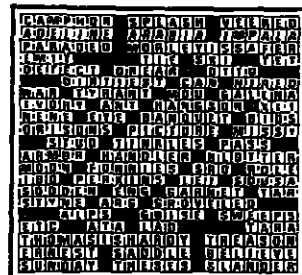
—By Barbara J. Rugg

3. EIIB ZIOOXTX VOFCSA BXFSAISK ZVS
PRXZJ YS XTL KQVBQ V LAXQIB CVJX ISX
PAKM MX MYL LBIEEXL IFQ.

—By Gordon Miller

4. GDRHGLD ENHUFNF FAR RUGAMN
ULITAR IGNTUNG MARUTHON.

—By Ed Huddleston



Health-conscious Cuba moves into world medicine market

By Pascal Fletcher
Reuters

HAVANA — Communist-ruled Cuba, proud of its high health standards but short of hard cash, is venturing into the lucrative world medicine market with the personal blessing of its health-conscious President Fidel Castro.

Medical exports and tourism have been given top priority by Castro in his survival and development strategy to head off serious economic and political pressures besetting the Caribbean island.

Cuba has been forced to seek new markets and exports to keep its debt-burdened, sugar-based economic afloat.

The island's traditional trade and aid links have been disrupted by the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and economic and political turmoil in the Soviet Union.

"We're not exporters of oil or cars or sophisticated things like that but we're going to be exporters of what the human being appreciated most: well-being and health," Castro said at an International Health Products Fair in Havana last month.

Castro, who gave up smoking cigars to promote a public health campaign, has been praised by World Health Organisation (WHO) officials for his dedication to improving health standards both at home and in the Third World.

On display at the fair were more than 600 medical products which Cuban trade officials are trying to sell for hard currency or as part of barter deals.

Cuban officials hope that an internationally recognised reputation for high domestic health standards combined with an ambitious government-funded bio-technological and medical research programme will help the island break into the highly competitive and carefully regulated world medicine market.

"We're trying to join the bio-technological revolution," said Fidel Becomo, a Cuban exhibitor at the fair.

The Cubans are banking on a mixture of low prices and high quality in targeting Latin American and the rest of the Third World for their medical exports.

Foreign businessmen at the fair said competition from established U.S. and European multinationals and stringent international quality and safety standards would make the market a tough nut to crack for Cuba's fledgling industry.

"We know it's difficult but it's not impossible," said Orlando Romero, director general of Medicuba, a state firm which exports and imports medical products for the Health Ministry.

He said the Cuban products on sale were tested to the same standards used by health regulatory bodies like the U.S. Food and Drugs

Administration (FDA) and France's Pasteur Institute.

Becomo's company, Tecnosuma, produced diagnostic equipment and tests suitable for screening for AIDS, hepatitis and malformations in unborn babies. The test kits, already operating in Cuba, are also being used in the Soviet Union and Brazil.

Other local products which Cuban health authorities say have proven market potential are vaccines against cerebral meningitis and hepatitis B, Interferon for use against AIDS, cancer and other viruses, and a series of orthopaedic AIDS.

Cuban officials say medical exports are already an important component of trade accords with the Soviet Union and China. The Soviet-Cuban accord for 1991 includes more than \$700 million worth of Cuban medicines and medical equipment.

Nearer home, Brazil bought \$130 million worth of Cuban medicines and medical equipment last year.

"The only market we're not working at is the United States but not because we don't want to," said Jorge Machado, a manager of the Cuban medical export firm Heber Biotec, referring to the continuing U.S. economic blockade against Cuba.

The medical development programme enjoys a priority share of scarce hard currency state funds and is also aimed at making the island more self-sufficient in medicines

and key chemicals. To help Cuba penetrate what is essentially a capitalist market, the government has matched its medical innovations with some economic novelties by creating private or mixed companies to sell the new goods.

Private medical companies set up in Cuba recently include Tecnosuma Internacional S.A., makers of diagnostic kits, Heber Biotec S.A., which markets big-medical products and Inversiones Gamma S.A., specialising in nuclear medicine.

Underpinning the export drive is Cuba's tradition of providing health assistance to poor countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa as well as to its ally the Soviet Union.

Cuban medical teams have been sent to help survivors of several natural disasters in the Soviet Union and more than 4,000 Soviet children affected by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident have been treated on the island.

Cuban doctors and nurses worked in Baghdad during the Gulf war and Cuba was one of the first countries to send medicines and experts to help fight the cholera outbreak in Peru.

Health officials say most of the export products on sale are already being used across Cuba, where life expectancy and infant mortality rates are among the best in the developing world and compare well with industrialised countries.

Jordan calls for league action

(Continued from page 1)

clashed at the meeting, their first face-to-face recriminations in an Arab forum since the Gulf war. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem al Sabah, chairing the meeting, strongly condemned the "crimes" of Iraq's invasion and occupation of the emirate.

Mohammad Al Sahaf, Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs, accused him of "bickering and gloating" to open wounds which Baghdad was trying to heal.

League officials said earlier that the agenda of the session has been deliberately kept non-controversial to avoid strains over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August or the war which forced it out in February.

Sheikh Salem said in his opening address that "Iraq committed crimes, violations against sanctities, property... it killed people and continues to imprison our sons, it destroyed institutions and burned buildings and oil wells."

"This catastrophe was and will continue to be a moral, a difficult test to this Arab nation... I hope we have derived from it all lessons to build a better future," he added.

While Sheikh Salem spoke, Mr. Sahaf frequently swivelled round in his chair, turning his back to delegates. He rapped his fingers on the table and unlike other ministers, he took no notes.

After Sheikh Salem ended his address, Mr. Sahaf lifted his arm to ask for the floor, but his

attempts to catch the chairman's eye were drowned in applause, announcing Mr. Abdul Meguid's election.

Mr. Sahaf listened as Mr. Abdul Meguid was sworn in and addressed the session. He sent a paper with one of his aides to Sheikh Salem asking to be heard. His request was granted after two more people spoke.

"I would like here to respond to the speech by Kuwait's representative... who insisted since the start of this meeting to open wounds and called for the addition of a new wound to the Arab Nation's ranks," Mr. Sahaf said quietly.

"I would like to affirm that we came here to the Arab League, in the Arab home and our inclinations are to heal the wound and deal with matters rationally and not by throwing accusations."

"Whoever wants to open the file on the crisis, if anyone wants to open it we are ready to open it starting with the first page. We have our file," he said. "It is sorrowful that Iraq is attacked in this manner..."

He said the current phase of Arab action called for "objectivity to resolve Arab problems within the Arab home, and not for bickering and gloating."

"I assure you the Iraqi Republic is moving clearly and with continuity under the leadership of Saddam Hussein. God protect him, in its Arab policy based on uniting the front and not opening wounds."

Sheikh Salem did not respond.

U.S., Iraqi officers hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

Western soldiers from the region. "We are still discussing this possible presence and (its) terms of reference," Mr. Perez de Cuellar said. "It is too early to say there is an agreement."

Later, Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari said in a separate interview, "I am optimistic that within a week, everything will be settled and there will be no problem." He said a tentative agreement has been reached.

Mr. Anbari said the force "is definitely going to be a regular police force" contributed by police departments in U.N. member-states, not U.N. peacekeepers drawn from the ranks of the military.

Asked about the size of a U.N. force, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said, "It depends, but I think in the case where we embark on some U.N. presence, we have to think in terms of 400 to 500."

Mr. Anbari agreed that only 400 to 500 police would be able to handle the situation because "neither party is going to be engaged in fighting with each other."

The Iraqi ambassador also said that the formal agreement, when implemented, would enable U.S. and other allied soldiers to return home.

In Ankara, U.N. humanitarian

representative Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan said Baghdad was helping United Nations efforts to resettle the Iraqi refugees.

"The Iraqis have been very forthcoming, very helpful," the prince, who visited some of the refugee camps, told a news conference.

He said Iraq had provided one million dinars (over \$3 million at the official exchange rate) to help with the resettlement and was expected to give more.

The envoy met Iraqi officials in Baghdad Monday.

The safety guaranteed by the allied force as well as the availability of food — are attracting tens of thousands of Kurds who sought refuge in Iran, witnesses say.

Their arrival could strain the resources of the Western military contingents whose relief work has focused on repatriating and providing for Iraqi Kurds who fled to the Turkish border.

"We thought we'd only have to save the ones who escaped to Turkey," said Jan Tenhove of the Dutch marines. "Now we're going to have to save the whole world."

"There could be some real bottlenecks," said Gus Kontaras, an official with the International Rescue Committee, a U.S.-based humanitarian agency.

'West Bank settlers shot an Arab who tried to pick fruit from his own orchard'

Hell for Palestinians as Israelis get key to Paradise

By Shyam Bhatia

AT THE entrance to the Convent of the Locked Paradise, Sister Maragret tearfully surveyed the orchards of green almonds, plums and apricots that have flourished in the valley for decades. In less than a year the trees will be uprooted to make room for new Israeli settlers flooding into the occupied West Bank to fulfill the dream of creating a Jewish majority in the Arab territories captured during the 1967 Middle East war.

Convent property is not exempt from the land-grabbing that has accelerated since the United States launched fresh efforts to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict. The white-walled convent — built 91 years ago at the instigation of the Archbishop of Montevideo — dominates the village of Irta, where Israeli surveyors have been spotted mapping out the extension they plan for a nearby settlement. The 400 acres they have targeted represent 90 per cent of the farming land owned for generations by village families.

"We will starve to death once they take our land," says Abdullah Shaheen, one of the village elders who has been told by the authorities that his eight-acre field has been declared state property. Like his father and grandfather before him, Abdullah depends on the land as his only source of income. The crops are seasonal — green almonds and citrus fruits interspersed with lettuce, marrows, tomatoes and eggplants.

Abdullah's family belongs to the largest clan in the village. The fields they collectively own amount to more than 100 acres — nearly a third of the land in the process of being taken away. For the past three weeks the Shaheens have not dared to set foot on their own fields, for fear of being beaten up by settlers. Last month a member of the family was shot in the foot when he tried to pick the fruit from his own orchard.

"We are prisoners of our Locked Paradise," said Abdullah's wife, Suraiya. "First the Israelis steal our land, then they prevent us from leaving the village to find alternative work in Israel. What is left for us except to live like dogs and die like dogs in the land of our ancestors? The Israelis hope we will be forced to leave. Our answer is that we will die here."

Another victim of the land-grab, 24-year-old Jamal Ahmed, is being forced to sell his dairy cows because there is no grazing land left. Jamal, a political activist, is banned from leaving to work in Israel. Like other Palestinians who have been jailed in Israel, he has been given a green card that classified him as a security risk.

The issue of land ownership is the most important item on the agenda for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker when he visited Israel this week. Baker, who is making his fourth trip to Israel since the end of the Gulf war, has



A Palestinian farmer inspects his barren land near an Israeli settlement in the West Bank (photo by Havakuk Levison)

been told by local Palestinian leaders that the Israeli government is engaged in a race against time to win control of as much Arab land as possible before any political settlement.

"King Sharon (Housing Minister Ariel Sharon) is the master strategist who plans to triple and quadruple the volume of settlements," says Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, one of the Palestinian leaders who participated in recent meetings with Baker. "How can peace talks succeed when the Israelis send in bulldozers to build settlements or expand existing ones?"

The key word now for success or failure is settlements. Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Shamir has said the issue of settlements can be discussed three years after a political solution. But by then what will there be left in the West Bank to talk about? Why are they investing so heavily in settlements, why are they building highways to service them, why do they call our West Bank Judea and Samaria? Last week Sharon, who took right-wing Knesset members on a tour of the West

Bank, emphasised the importance of expanding existing settlements.

One of the members of the group, Michael Eitan, the leader of the Land of Israel Front, confirmed that thousands of new apartments were being built in the occupied territories. He said afterwards: "We saw very beautiful things being done. Mountains are being moved. The whole environment is being changed."

Palestinian and Israeli researchers revealed last week that Israel has been expropriating Arab land at the rate of 300 acres a day since the start of Baker's Middle East shuttle on March 9. Most of the property that has attracted Sharon's interest lies north of Jerusalem, in the hilly area around Ramallah. Irta is the start of a new drive further south near Bethlehem.

Palestinian leaders who raised the issue during Baker's last visit were bitterly disappointed by his response. His reference to settlements as "obstacles to peace" was seen as much weaker than the term "illegal" used by Canada and the European Commu-

ity. "It's a very important difference," argues Freij. "An obstacle is another word for obstruction. It's not the same as calling it illegal."

Even the Soviet Union, the traditional champion of the Palestinian cause, has failed to measure up to local expectations. Palestinian hopes that Moscow would take up the cudgels on their behalf were cruelly dashed on Friday when Alexander Bessmertnykh arrived on the first visit to Israel by a Soviet foreign minister.

At a press conference in Amman, before leaving for Tel Aviv, Bessmertnykh chastised Israel for its settlement policy which he said hampered peace efforts. But his tone changed when he arrived at Ben Gurion airport.

Delighted Israeli right-wingers say he did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organisation once or raise the settlement issue. Nor did he bring up key United Nations resolutions that call for withdrawal from occupied territory. Palestinians who asked to meet him said they did not even get a response — Observer.

Badran visits Muta University

(Continued from page 1)

higher education without going abroad or even leaving their own governorates, thus reducing the cost of education for their parents and saving the country a fortune. The prime minister said that the government was keen to complete the remaining parts of the civilian wings at Muta University as soon as possible.

Later the prime minister listened to requests submitted by deputies from Karak Governorate and questions about Karak

Hospital. The prime minister said that the hospital was being given due priority and noted that the designs for the hospital had now been floated in a tender inviting bids by firms wishing to build it.

The prime minister suggested that Muta University open facilities in Tafleeh and Maan to help meet needs of the local communities in the two governorates. The prime minister toured the campus and was briefed on the construction work of the civilian wing, the first stage of which will be completed by August.

Israeli forces kill Gazan

(Continued from page 1)

settlers to set up new mobile homes in the West Bank.

Settlers hurriedly set up 30 caravans across the street from a Jewish settlement north-west of Jerusalem Monday and moved several families there on Tuesday.

"The government of Israel... answered Baker with another

slap in the face. (They) did their best to close the small crack that perhaps was open towards peace these days," said Naftali Raz, one of the demonstrators.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the driving force behind settlement, had vowed to add more Jews to the 100,000 already living in the occupied territories. Washington calls the settlements an obstacle to peace.

Baker holds critical talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Baker has been trying to persuade Israel, Palestinians and Arab states to attend a regional peace conference. All accept the idea in principle but are wrangling over procedural arrangements, and especially whether the United Nations should take part.

Syria and Israel have blamed each other for a possible breakdown of Mr. Baker's efforts.

Syria insists that the U.N. take a prominent role in the peace conference. Israel will hear none of it, saying the world body's long history of anti-Israel resolutions should disqualify it. Israel also wants the conference to be a one-time event while Syria thinks it should reconvene from time to time.

Mr. Baker is on his fourth Middle East trip in two months and officials said before he embarked it would be his last unless it produced a breakthrough.

A mood of resigned gloom settled on the Baker party after he failed on Sunday to persuade

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to soften any of his positions.

At that point, a senior U.S. official said Mr. Baker was only going through with the rest of the mission because it would be "dishonourable" to break appointments.

There was no sign that Mr. Shamir, one of the region's most unyielding politicians, was prepared to offer any unilateral, last-minute concessions to keep the mission alive.

Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel had made all the concessions so far.

"Israel stands by a proposal for a possible regional conference: the possibility of Soviet participation, the possibility of European participation which we are discussing now, all at the request of the Arabs," he said.

"We also said that should Syria not come, we would be ready to go it alone with Jordan, with a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation... if somebody isn't coming, it's the Arab side."

Abdul Meguid elected league chief

(Continued from page 1)

"There is understanding and there are no problems. There have never been problems," Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters after 40 minutes of talks with foreign ministers from Syria and the six countries of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The meeting follows Egypt's surprise decision last week to withdraw its 35,000-strong force from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Diplomats said the troops pulled out was prompted by Cairo's anger over plans by the Gulf states to seek Western rather than Arab protection in the wake of the Gulf war. (see page 2).

PLO upbeat after meetings

(Continued from page 1)

dent Hafez Al Assad on his soundings about the peace process in the region and had a "very deep and extensive discussion" about how to promote a conference.

He stressed that as a co-sponsor of the proposal, the Soviet Union did not "want to impose anything on the parties concerned."

Syria's foreign minister reiterated his country's demands for a United Nations role in peace

talks.

In occupied Jerusalem, after meeting Mr. Baker for nearly three hours at the U.S. consulate, Palestinian delegation head Faisal Al Hussein told reporters the talks had been frank and had touched on the most difficult issues.

Mr. Hussein, who was joined at the talks by Bir Zeit University lecturer Hanan Ashrawi and Dr. Zacharia Al Agha from the Gaza Strip, said he would report on the meeting to Palestinian decision-makers, meaning the PLO.

He urged Israelis to pressure their government to show flexibility during talks with Mr. Baker.

Experts assess

Iraq's capability

(Continued from page 1)

war damage fund in London. Geneva and the Hague are other candidates.

Under U.N. trade sanctions imposed last August, Iraq has not been able to sell any oil, even to buy food and medicine.

The new resolution makes clear that Iraqi oil exports after April 3 — the date the Security Council adopted a stringent resolution setting terms for a permanent ceasefire in the Gulf war — would be subject to compensation payments, regardless of the purpose.

The levy would also be attached to any oil Iraq may have agreed to sell at an earlier date "but not delivered or not paid for," because of U.N. trade sanctions.

Iraq has asked the council's Sanctions Committee for permission to sell a billion dollars worth of oil for food and medicine and to grant a five-year moratorium on any compensation payments.

Still unresolved is how much Iraq will have to pay. Mr. Perez de Cuellar has to recommend a maximum percentage or ceiling on each barrel of oil sold. The governing council then sets the actual payment, which cannot be higher than this ceiling.

U.S. officials have suggested 50 per cent ceiling. But British and French sources have speculated on 25 per cent to 30 per cent, while other states have even suggested lower amounts.

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL. 604675 604686
P.O. BOX 7806
AMMAN

4 Rent & Sale

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale — furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call

Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 610605, 610606
Fax: 610620

Ricardo 22/6

Amman's exclusive gift shop

Italian shoes, leather goods, perfumes, lighters, watches, pens, silverware, porcelain, crystalware etc.

Shmeisani - Grindlays Bank Bldg.
Tel. 669 457

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service

Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swedish tel: 823891

RENT Saudi Real Estate

Furnished & unfurnished apartments & villas for rent in West Amman area.

CALL SOHA
Rental Dept. 687821/22

FOR RENT

DELUXE & SUPER DELUXE APARTMENTS, VILLAS & SEMI VILLAS

GET THE BEST AT

JAMAL REAL ESTATE

JUST CALL **835859**

CROWN INT'L EST.

packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664950, Fax: 690852
Tlx: 22205 BESMCO JO
P.O. Box 928487
AMMAN JORDAN

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyah Girls School

Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 639668

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE

elegant colorful atmosphere moderate prices

Chermouk, Tel. 660291 (now open daily)

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

Kash Restaurant

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT

Special Executive Lunches

Take away service available

Open Daily 12:30 - 3:30 pm
7:30 - 11:30 pm

After the Philadelphia Hotel
Towards 3rd circle
Tel. 659519, 659520

Steak House FOR THE BEST AMERICAN

STEAKS IN TOWN

T-BONE SERLOIN & MANY

MANY KINDS OF STEAKS

Mecca Street — Jaber Center
Tel: 829064 — 829065

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO

Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

فندق ريجنسي بالاس
The Regency Palace Hotel

PRESS CENTER Facilities

Agassi humbled in Italian Open

ROME (Agencies) — Andre Agassi's bid to win the French Open starting later this month suffered an embarrassing setback Tuesday when he was beaten in straight sets by German Eric Jelen in the Italian Open first round.

The flamboyant Agassi, ranked fourth in the world, slipped to an ignominious 6-3 7-6 defeat against a player ranked 60 places below him.

The American's performance, best described as limp, continued his poor form on European clay on which he has won only two matches this year.

He will now have to search for alternative match practice before heading for Paris where he reached the final last year.

The Italian Open, dogged by rain and pre-tournament withdrawals, has now lost both its major attractions on the same day.

World number two and top seed Boris Becker pulled out in the morning suffering from back trouble.

The exodus of stars also included fourth-seeded Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic, number seven in the world, who crashed out 3-6 7-5 6-3 to Dutchman Paul Haarhuis.

Fellow seeds Michael Stich, Guillermo Perez-Roldan and Karel Novacek also failed to negotiate the first round, leaving third seed Pete Sampras as the top-ranked survivor.

It was the demise of Agassi, however, which gave the puzzled crowd at the Foro Italico the most to talk about.

"I'm very disappointed because I felt as confident as I've ever been coming into this tournament," said Agassi. "I'm still looking forward to playing in Paris."

Agassi's only defence was that the match did not start until late evening in cool, murky conditions — scarcely the ideal time to begin a match.

Jelen had lost six of his pre-

vious seven matches but, after taking a rapid 3-0 lead in the first set, he looked by far the more likely winner.

His pony-tailed opponent, dressed in a lime green and charcoal outfit, made a stream of basic errors and there was little he could do to alter the tide of events in a contest lasting 90 minutes.

Ivanisevic, who almost pulled out of the tournament with an ankle injury, was similarly below his best.

Sampras, too, had some difficulties against Vladimir Gaboridze, a 22-year-old from Soviet Georgia playing his first tournament.

"It was really frustrating. I certainly didn't play as well as I would have liked," said the U.S. Open champion after his 7-6 4-6 6-2 victory.

Czechoslovakia's Novacek, winner of the Hamburg tournament Sunday, bombed out 6-0 6-3 against Italian Massimo Cierro while Stich, the 10th seed from Germany, went down 4-6 6-4 6-4 to mark Koevermans of the Netherlands.

Perez-Roldan lost in three sets to fellow Argentine Christian Minuzzi.

Another well-known name among the first round losers was former world number one Mats Wilander.

Wilander, now ranked 58th, was beaten 7-6 6-1 by fellow Swede Magnus Gustafsson.

Life has not been the same for Sampras since he defeated Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe, and Andre Agassi to win last year's U.S. Open. With the victory at Flushing Meadows, and his \$2-million winner-take-all triumph at the Grand Slam Cup in Frankfurt, Germany, the Florida teenager has won a share of glory but lost a share of control over his life.

"It's calmed down a lot after the U.S. Open," said Sampras, the no. 3 seed at Rome. "There are some experiences I'll never



Andre Agassi

forget, however. One time after an exhibition against Lendl, the crowd just flooded onto the court during the ceremony, pushing over the guards to get to us. It was like being a rock star. I thought I was going to get trampled."

Looking back, Sampras says he wouldn't want to return to being the young hopeful he was before winning the U.S. Open. "I'm still happy, but it's different now," he said. "I've made a lot of money, and I have a lot of fans. But being a celebrity is tough. Of course it's worth it in the end. And I'm happy about having achieved what I've wanted ever since I was very young. I'm just not too happy about losing my privacy."

Meanwhile, three-time French Open champion Lendl still intends to play in this year's championship despite having had hand surgery Monday, his spokesman said Tuesday.

"He expects to hopefully start playing, or training in a couple of days, no later than the end of the week, and is on track to still participate in the French Open," spokesman Robert Sunko said from his Greenwich, Connecticut, office.

Lendl, 31, was operated on in Munich after withdrawing from this week's Italian Open. A small incision was made at the base of the thumb on his right (playing) hand to remove scar tissue. Only one stitch was needed.

Lendl hopes to play at an exhibition event scheduled in Lucerne, Switzerland, next week before the May 27 start of the French Open on the clay courts of Roland Garros.

Last year the Czechoslovak skipped the French Open as part of an extensive, but unsuccessful, bid to win Wimbledon.

Trainer says Strike The Gold under-rated

BALTIMORE (AP) — Pan the Gold at your own risk. "Anybody who discredits this horse is asking for trouble — quote, unquote," said Nick Zito, trainer of Strike The Gold.

Trouble with a capital F, which stands for foolish, which is how Zito feels his colt's performances have made critics look.

Zito, who grew up near New York's Aqueduct, acts like he's been skewered by one of Churchill Downs' famed twin spires when he perceives that the Kentucky Derby winner is not being given his due.

"To win the Kentucky Derby, you have to be special," Zito said Tuesday.

The 43-year-old trainer was ranked when some racing observers chose to question Fly So Free's credentials and his trainer's strategy rather than credit Strike The Gold for upsetting the 2-year-old champion of 1990 in the Blue Grass Stakes on April 13.

It was written that Fly So Free was beaten by a colt who qualified for races for non-winners of two, even though Strike The Gold in his stakes debut had

missed upsetting Fly So Free by a length in the Florida Derby.

Zito chafed under questioning about his colt not having the dosage index figures required of derby winners. The dosage index is a complicated formula that predicts the derby outcome based on breeding.

Strike The Gold, who won the first race of his career on the day his Alydar died — Nov. 15 — appears to be more than just a colt who was right on derby day.

He is a colt who has run three good races in succession and looks to be in the pink of condition for a shot at Saturday's 1 3-16-mile (1 1-16-kilometre) Preakness at Pimlico.

It seems Strike The Gold will have six rivals. Three of them challenged him in the derby — Best Pal, who was second by 1 1/4 lengths; Mane Minister, who finished third as an 86-1 shot and Corporate Report, who was ninth.

Strike The Gold's main challenger could be Olympio, who has not raced since he won the Arkansas Derby on April 20 for his third straight stakes victory. "I've got a fresh horse, we're coming at them with," said trainer Ron McAnally.

Olympio could well be the betting favourite for the Preakness, which does not annoy Zito.

Strike The Gold has been favoured only once, his eight career starts. That was for a seven-furlong allowance in his 3-year-old debut on Jan. 26 at Gulfstream Park — and he finished third.

With Strike The Gold at Pimlico is Thirty Six Red, who finished ninth in the derby and second in Belmont last year, but who did not race in the Preakness.

Thirty Six Red is in Baltimore because he was in Louisville when Strike The Gold won the derby. In fact, he won the Churchill Downs handicap on derby day.

Senator To Be, owned by Zito's wife, Jan, will fill in for Thirty Six Red by running in a race at Pimlico on Preakness day. Thirty Six Red's next start will be the Metropolitan handicap on May 27 at Belmont.

Jan Zito will watch the Preakness in a navy blue dress bought by her husband, which she wore on derby day. He will be in the same navy blue jacket with the gray pin-striped shirt and red tie with horses on it that he wore the derby.

After all, training horses is not an exact science.

Boli puts Marseille into semifinals in extra time

PARIS (R) — An extra time goal from big stopper Basile Boli took Marseille into the semifinals of the French Soccer Cup Tuesday with a 2-1 away victory over Nantes.

Boli scored with a header from an Aboed Pele cross in the 103rd minute to clinch a victory which seemed to be slipping away from the European Cup finalists when they trailed with 10 minutes of regular time to do.

Paul Le Guen had given Nantes the lead in the 76th minute but Marseille striker Jean-Pierre Papin, totally marked out of the match until then, equalised four minutes later.

The goalscorer extraordinaire

latched on to a Pele Pass to slip the ball past advancing keeper David Marraud.

Marseille, who could capture their third successive league title when they meet Auxerre Friday, remain on course for a rare treble of European Cup and domestic league and cup.

They play Red Star Belgrade in the European Cup final in Bari, Italy, on May 29.

Two second division sides also reached the French Cup semifinals. Rodez beat first division Sochaux 2-1 and Gueugnon defeated Niort 1-0 in a match between two clubs from the lower flight.

The last quarter final between Cannes and Monaco will be played next Tuesday.

Lemond 'is sharper' in spring

WINTERGREEN, Virginia (AP) — Spring normally is a dubious time for Greg Lemond.

The three-time winner of the Tour De France, Lemond often is criticised for peaking for the prestigious July race while riding easily and poorly early in the season.

"Last year, everyone said, 'oh, Greg Lemond, well, he just bags every race just to get in shape for the Tour De France,'" Lemond, 29, said. "It's not true. I just wasn't capable of doing any better. If I'm physically capable of winning a race, I will try to win the race."

"But once you get older and you get more experience, you get realistic. You realise you're not in as good shape and you race a little differently."

Now in the midst of his 11th

professional season, Lemond is riding better during the early season than he has in recent years.

"I can't race without wanting to try to win," said Lemond, who is competing in the 11-day, 1,100-mile (1,770-kilometre) Tour De Pont. "I'm still very competitive even when I'm not at my best. But it is impossible for me to race well year-round because cycling has become so competitive."

"I used to race hard from February to October, but I can't do that any more. People said last year that I only wanted to win the Tour De France and that I was using all the other races to get ready for that one event. It is true that everyone wants to win the Tour De France, but I still give it my best effort (in other races) when I'm fit."

Although the Faroes have no chance of qualifying for the finals, they have gained confidence from their victory over Austria and the Northern Ireland draw. And coach Paul Guldagsson warned the Yugoslavs: "We did not come as tourists here."

Huber, Cecchini win in Berlin tennis tournament

BERLIN (AP) — Anke Huber, the 16-year-old German, needed only 50 minutes to beat Petra Langrova of Czechoslovakia in the first-round of the \$500,000 Lufthansa Open Women's Tennis Tournament.

Huber, the 14th seed, joined 12th-seeded Sandra Cecchini of

Italy in the second round. Cecchini beat Silke Meier of Germany 6-2, 6-0 in another rapid decision.

Two other seeds also advanced. Laura Gildemeister, no. 15 from Peru, beat Francesca Romano of Italy 6-3, 6-1, and 16th-seeded Mercedes Paz of Argentina downed Eva Sviglerova of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 6-4.

Nervous Yugoslavs take Faroes seriously

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia, unnerved by a home defeat to Denmark, are taking Thursday's European Championship qualifying match against minnows Faroe Islands seriously.

"After learning last year we would have to play them (Faroes), many people laughed," coach Ivica Osim said Wednesday. "Nobody's laughing now."

Yugoslavia won their first four games in Group 4, including a

victory in Denmark, and looked certain to qualify for the finals in Sweden next year.

But their 2-1 loss to Denmark two weeks ago threw the group open again. And on the same night the Faroes produced the second upset of their debut European Championship campaign, drawing 1-1 in Northern Ireland.

Yugoslavia are three points ahead of Denmark, but the Danes have a game in hand and

Osim said they could afford no more mistakes.

"Denmark are flying high now. We must win all the remaining matches to qualify, which may not be easy."

"(Against Denmark) we were simply over confident and arrogant. Nobody can beat us the way we can beat ourselves. Now we must start all over again."

Osim, who said after the Denmark defeat that his players had

behaved like spoiled stars, has dropped several regulars including Mehmed Bazdarevic and Faruk Hadzibegic who play for Sochaux in France, and Cesena's Davor Jozic.

Although the Faroes have no chance of qualifying for the finals, they have gained confidence from their victory over Austria and the Northern Ireland draw.

And coach Paul Guldagsson warned the Yugoslavs: "We did not come as tourists here."

Johnson and Lewis to race in France

PARIS (R) — Sprinters Ben Johnson and Carl Lewis will race each other for the first time since their fated meeting in the 1988 Olympic 100 metres final at an athletics Grand Prix in France on July 1, organisers have announced.

Raymond Lorré, director of the meeting at Villeneuve d'Ascq near Lille, said contracts had been signed with both men but he gave no financial details.

Lorré made the announcement in a television broadcast which included a live link-up with Canadian Johnson in Toronto.

The two rivals have not met since the controversial 1988 Olympic final in Seoul when Johnson won the gold medal and broke the world record with a time of 9.79 seconds but later failed a dope test.

American Lewis was subsequently awarded the gold medal

and given the world record for his time of 9.92 seconds in the same race.

Negotiations for an earlier meeting between the two in Seville, Spain, fell through over financial negotiations.

Johnson said he was very happy to run against Lewis again but doubted whether he would talk with his arch-rival.

"We'll do our separate things," he said. "But we do the same things on the track. We'll run against each other."

Johnson, who had a mediocre indoor season following his two-year doping suspension, said he felt in form again and expected a good summer as he prepared for the World Championships in Tokyo in August.

Lorré said there had been no difficulty arranging the confrontation. "When you have the money, you have the athletes," he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
BY TAMARA HIRSCH
© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q963 ♠ K103 ♠ Q82 ♠ 76
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—In the modern style, a reverse bid is forcing until three of opener's original suit has been reached. Since a reverse is often based on a three-card fit with responder, it is incumbent on the latter to rebid a five-card major. Bid two spades.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q96 ♠ K103 ♠ Q82 ♠ 762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—As discussed above, partner's reverse is forcing, so we have to bid. Since any bid other than two no trump by responder shows a better than minimum hand and would be forcing, responder must bid two no trump with a balanced minimum, such as the above.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q962 ♠ K103 ♠ K2 ♠ A94
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—Reverses are forcing on both players for one round. Therefore, if we do not make a possibly minimum response at the two-level, but instead act at the three-level, we could be showing a very good hand. Indeed, it might be the first move toward slam. This hand should be in the slam zone, yet all we need do for the moment is show our excellent

support for partner's first-bid suit to see how he reacts. Bid three diamonds.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A ♠ A98 ♠ Q62 ♠ AK1054
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
A.—An awkward hand. You are too strong to pass, hate to overcall one no trump when your stopper in opener's suit is only A x, prefer a better suit for a two-dub overall and should have four cards in the other major for a takeout double. We think the least of evils is the takeout double.

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A764 ♠ Void ♠ KJ87 ♠ KJ1096
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Dbl 1 ♠ ?

What do you bid now?
A.—This is a close decision. Partner does not have a two-suiter—as a passed hand North would have bid two no trump to show that type of hand—but might have only three clubs. We slightly prefer four no trump, asking partner to select a suit, over five clubs. A penalty double would be our third choice.

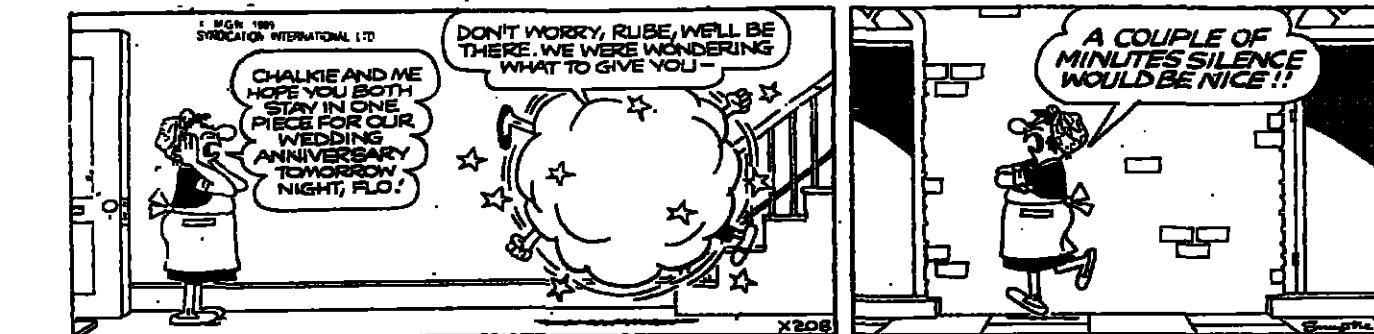
Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A9 ♠ AK ♠ 98754 ♠ QJ74
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—How did this one slip in here? Anyone who holds good four-card support for partner's suit and doesn't show it needs the services of a psychiatrist rather than a bridge expert. Raise to three clubs.

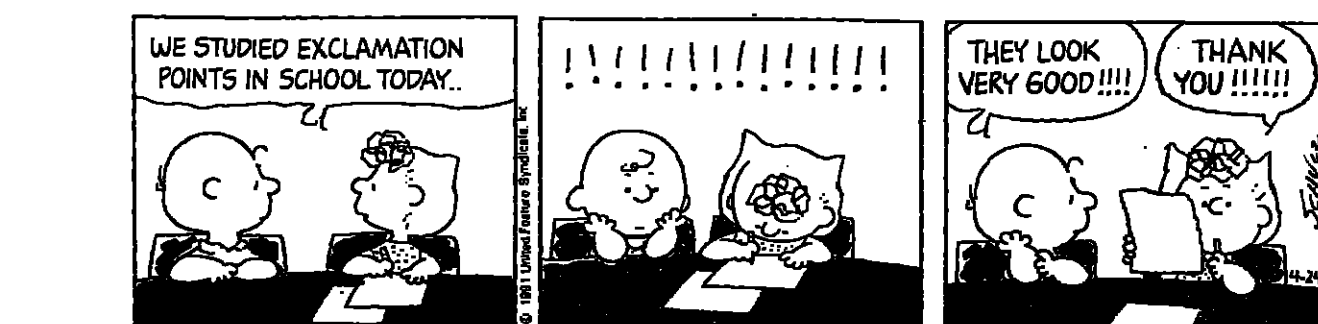
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF.

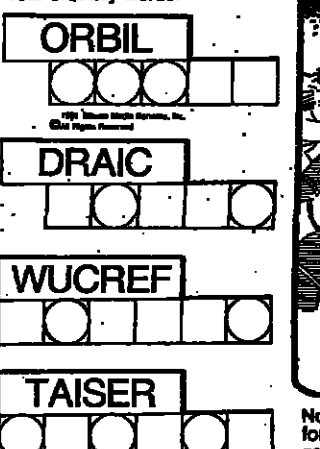
By Harris



JUMBLE.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

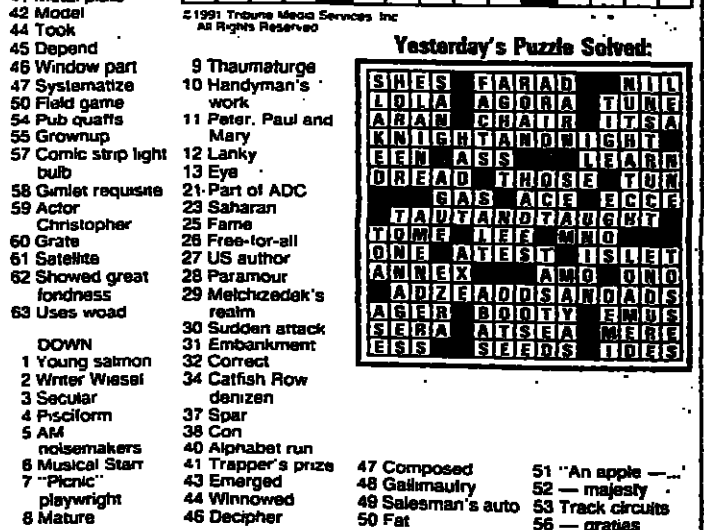
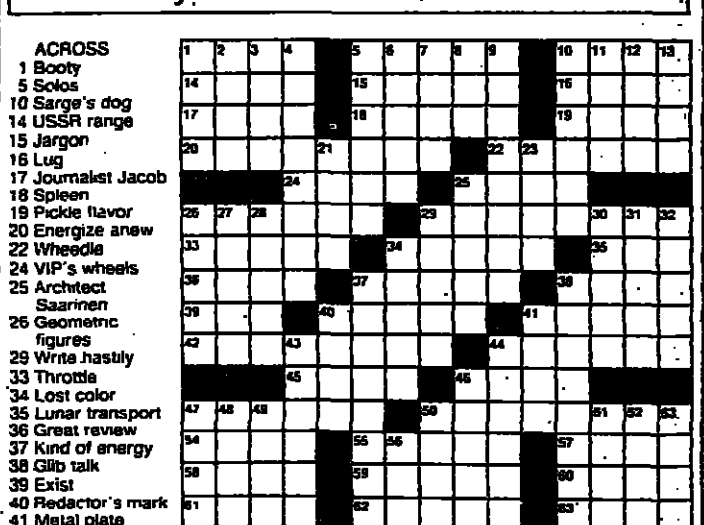
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A "ORBIL" (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MADLY AFIRE DREDGE NAPKIN
Answer: The fear that relatives are coming to stay — KIN "DREAD" (hinted)

THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 15/5/91	Tokyo Close 15/5/91
Sterling Pound	1.7460	1.7430
Deutsche Mark	1.6965	1.6965
Swiss Franc	1.4310	1.4310
French Franc	5.7570	5.7560 **
Japanese Yen	138.00	137.89
European Currency Unit	1.2140	1.2110 **

* USD Per STG

** European Opening @ 8.00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for months ending U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.00	6.06	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.81	11.43	11.18	11.06
Deutsche Mark	8.81	9.00	9.12	9.12
Swiss Franc	7.93	8.06	8.12	7.81
French Franc	9.06	9.12	9.18	9.25
Japanese Yen	7.90	7.75	7.65	7.40
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.56	9.50	9.47

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	359.55	6.70	Silver	4.08	.087

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.678	.680
Sterling Pound	1.1809	1.1868
Deutsche Mark	.3996	.4016
Swiss Franc	.4738	.4762
French Franc	.1178	.1184
Japanese Yen	.4916	.4941
Dutch Guilder	.3547	.3565
Swedish Krona	.1112	.1118
Italian Lira	.0537	.0540
Belgian Franc	.01943	.01953

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7350	1.7500
Lebanese Lira	.0720	.0740
Saudi Riyal	.18075	.1820
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1830	.1850
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7150	1.7350
UAE Dirham	.1823	.1840
Greek Drachma	.3615	.3800
Cypriot Pound	1.4300	1.4600

Index	13/5/1991 Close	14/5/1991 Close
All-Share	112.94	113.48
Banking Sector	109.26	110.08
Insurance Sector	112.08	111.94
Industry Sector	112.48	117.67
Services Sector	123.01	123.50

December 31, 1990 = 100

Egypt puts ceiling on bank credit

CAIRO (R) — Egypt set a ceiling Tuesday on the amount of loans banks can extend to their customers, bankers said.

They said the central bank sent a circular to banks telling them not to increase outstanding credit above levels reached in February and warning of penalties if banks did not comply.

"It is causing a little bit of an upset," said the manager of a private sector bank.

He said the central bank had already in effect placed ceilings on credit early this year when it introduced mandatory capital-to-assets ratios. The new rules will limit banks' ability to expand, he added.

Bankers said the new rule appears to be part of a tight credit policy inspired by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to keep money supply under control

while recent reforms to the economy begin to take effect.

In the past few months the government, under IMF pressure, has liberalised foreign exchange and money markets, introduced treasury bills and sharply cut the size of the budget deficit projected for next year.

Western economists say a large increase in money supply would lead to rapid inflation and could endanger the reforms.

Egypt and the IMF are due to sign an accord on economic reform on Friday in Washington.

One bank said it had already given out lines of credit to customers who had yet to draw them down, and that it might easily surpass the new credit ceiling.

But bankers said the central bank would probably be flexible in its enforcement in such cases.

Gorbachev decrees incentives to revive industrial production

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has ordered a package of incentives to revive the Soviet Union's sagging industrial production, the independent news agency Interfax has said.

The incentives are a key plank of the government's anti-crisis programme. They allow basic industries increased autonomy and could stimulate such sectors as mining, steel and chemical production, gas extraction and railway transport.

The decree aims to introduce a special regime to supply them with resources and other indispensable materials ... the enterprises in question can retain 10 per cent of their output for sales inside the country or abroad," Interfax said.

Interfax said the decree had been signed, but it gave no details of the proposed "special regime" or when it would become effective.

"A sharp increase in output will entail considerable wage rises," it said.

The agency said local and republican governments would control a negotiated share in production or sales revenue.

Nine Soviet republics, including the giant Russian Federation, last month gave their backing to the authoritarian anti-crisis programme drawn up by Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov.

The programme, approved by the Soviet parliament, aims to introduce a market economy and reverse a decline in gross national product that reached eight per cent in the first quarter of this year.

The latest decree follows an agreement last week which ended a damaging nine-week coal strike by transferring control of pits from the central Soviet government to the Russian Republic and



Mikhail Gorbachev

making them more independent.

The miners were given a share in hard currency earnings from sales abroad — a sign that the Kremlin was ready to concede some economic power to autonomous-seeking republics.

Interfax said Russian Federation leaders have examined the republic's own programme for introducing a market economy.

Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev said there were many similarities with the Soviet programme but differences remained over areas of economic jurisdiction.

"Russia's government cannot agree with several fundamental provisions of the USSR programme and it intends to uphold its position," he said.

Silayev said the republics should control foreign trade and banking, two areas which the Kremlin wants to keep largely in its own hands.

Moscow radio said Silayev called for decisive and irreversible market-oriented reform. A final version of Russia's programme is expected to be published after it has been reviewed by the republic's leaders.

Competition grows for Bahrain as banking centre

UAE offshore banking legislation expected to take time to prepare

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is willing to host offshore banks but the legislation to regulate them is expected to take a considerable time to prepare, banking sources in the UAE said Wednesday.

The federal cabinet's decision Monday to consider offshore banking in the UAE took by surprise even the central bank, which has been commissioned to prepare a feasibility study on the subject, they said.

"We had lunch with a senior central bank official Monday, before the cabinet announcement, and he said offshore banking was not on the cards," a Dubai-based banker said.

The minister of state for financial and industrial affairs, Ahmad Bin Humaid Al Tayar, has ordered the finance ministry to prepare a separate study on offshore banking with the aim of making legal amendments to the central bank regulations.

Central bank Governor Abdul Malik Al-Hamad declined to comment on the issue, but a senior official at the bank said it might take "some months" before an official study is prepared.

When both studies are completed, the project will again be discussed by the federal cabinet.

Banking and commercial sources said the emirate of Dubai, eager to enhance its role as the Gulf's main financial and trading centre, had been pushing the idea of offshore banks for some time.

Some bankers say banks in the UAE already enjoy offshore status because they can lend abroad freely and there are no foreign currency controls.

But others point out that foreign banks still have to pay taxes from profits in the UAE for business outside the country.

The Gulf's only offshore banking centre, in Bahrain, has seen a decline in business in the past couple of years because the fall in oil prices deprived the banks of the funds they had during the oil boom years of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Bankers in the UAE said that if the UAE had offshore banking regulations, the established banks in Bahrain would not necessarily move straight to the UAE.

"You set up an offshore unit if you have instruments to market in the area. If there is no money to buy them you just don't switch

from Bahrain to the UAE because they have a new legislation," a European banker said.

The Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) Wednesday said that competition is growing for Bahrain as the Middle East's financial centre.

"The recent hostilities in the region have demonstrated beyond doubt Bahrain's capacity to absorb, and to react positively to, unfavourable circumstances," a BMA statement said, referring to the Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August.

"Bahrain has always been in competition with many other financial centres and will continue to be so. Such competition is likely to increase as new and emerging financial centres develop. We welcome this as a healthy development."

The BMA was apparently responding to a statement by a banker published in a local paper Wednesday warning Bahrain may lose its position as the banking centre in the area unless it gives more help to offshore banking units.

"The (UAE) decision will take away the pre-eminence of Bahrain as the financial centre of the Gulf if the UAE provides the right legal and regulatory conditions for offshore banking units to prosper there," Bahrain Middle East Bank chief executive Katch Katchadurian said.

The BMA said dinar and foreign currency deposits with the banking system were now slightly below their levels at the end of July last year, days before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but gave no figures.

Investor confidence was badly hit by the invasion. Economists estimate up to 30 per cent of private sector bank deposits were withdrawn from banks in the early stages of the crisis.

More than 50 offshore banking units operate in Bahrain. It became the Middle East financial centre after civil war erupted in Lebanon in 1975.

The BMA said it had taken steps to reduce the time it takes to register new offshore companies to a week from up to three months. "Seven new companies have already been established under the revised system," it said but did not name them.

ing last, to mic sur-

ent. las-the of but rid

ital g a ab-ine try 38,

to-be ab in-

to a-

S. Arabia borrows \$4.5 b from 20 banks

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia has signed a three year, \$4.5 billion credit with 20 international banks, bankers familiar with the deal said Tuesday. It is the kingdom's first foreign borrowing in its own name for years.

Saudi Arabia needs funds to help bridge its current account deficit and contribute to costs of the Gulf war, the bankers said. It is expected to draw on the credit shortly.

Henry Azzam, chief economist of National Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia, said at a conference in London Friday that the kingdom would need to borrow domestically and from abroad to cover a budget deficit for this year which he estimated at \$15 billion.

The borrowing margin of the deal, signed earlier this month, was set at 3/8 per cent over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) and makes a lower cost of funds than the 1/2 per cent margin first considered in February when the deal being drafted was for around \$3.5 billion.

Saudi Arabia was able to increase the amount as the bank group grew to 20 institutions from an earlier smaller group, the bankers said. Bankers said the front-end fee for the Saudi Arabia loan was lowered by 1/8 point from initial levels.

Egyptian minister sharply criticises demands of IMF

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian minister accused the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of imposing intolerable conditions on Egypt Tuesday, three days before his country was due to sign an economic reform.

Hassaballah Kafrawi, minister of housing, new communities and public utilities, told a news conference, "the International Monetary Fund, widely known as the international misery fund, has a few demands. One of these demands is the raising of interest rates in commercial banks."

"I am not convinced at all on raising interest rates constantly until they reach 21 per cent. This is inappropriate except in a form of commerce forbidden in Egypt."

"I say that this is a very difficult decision that the people cannot tolerate, and I am one of those people," he added.

Egypt, responding to IMF pressure to liberalise its economy, in January removed nearly all controls on the interest rates banks can charge on loans and pay for deposits.

The IMF argues Egypt needs to allow local interest rates to rise in order to attract funds into the Egyptian currency.

Egypt then made its currency convertible and introduced treasury bills to fund a budget deficit running at well over 10 per cent of gross domestic product. Interest rates on lending have since risen in some cases to more than 20 per cent.

Kafrawi said that a factory

operating legally could not make enough profit to repay interest at 21 per cent and that the state should continue to subsidise cooperative loans for housing at nine per cent, or else raise people's salaries.

President Hosni Mubarak announced last week he would soon reshuffle his cabinet, and many diplomats believe the economic portfolios are among the most likely to be switched.

Last year, during a particularly difficult period of negotiations, Mubarak also referred to the IMF as the international misery fund. But in recent weeks he has hailed the accord as a way out of Egypt's economic problems.

The managing director of the IMF has said Egypt's economy could boom if the government pressed ahead with plans to liberalise its economy and develop the private sector.

"The government has the possibility of creating the condition ... to bring the rate of growth of this economy ... to a steady 5 1/2 to six per cent, which is the performance of the most efficient countries of the world. Egypt can do this," Michel Camdessus told a news conference late Tuesday.

"Everything will depend on the strength and the determination with which the government will create room for private sector activity," he said.

Camdessus' visit follows agreement between the IMF and Cairo on the terms of a standby credit accord after more than three years of often acrimonious negotiations.

tion. The accord is due to be signed in Washington Friday.

"I see in Egypt a very positive factor, namely the existence in spite of the role of the state of a strong and dynamic private sector and a spirit of entrepreneurship which has survived very well this almost 40 years of state intervention," said Camdessus.

In the past year Egypt has implemented a series of measures worked out with the IMF to move to a free market economy, liberalising its money and foreign exchange markets and introducing tough austerity to cut a huge budget deficit.

Abdul Shakour Shalaan, director of the IMF's Middle East Department, said Egypt's gross domestic product had declined by an estimated three per cent over the last year. Egypt's financial year begins July 1.

He told reporters the IMF expected no growth over the next year but believed the economy would soon pick up and within three to four years would grow at least an annual three to four per cent.

Camdessus said Egypt's budget deficit, estimated next year at just under 10 per cent of gross domestic product, would fall to three to four per cent within a few years and that inflation would decline to around five per cent after an initial rise on the removal of price controls.

Economists now estimate inflation at around 25 per cent.

German parliament approves tax increases

BERLIN (R) — The federal parliament has approved a controversial package of tax increases to help pay for German unification.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition, breaking one of its main pre-election promises, announced earlier this year that income tax and taxes on petrol

and insurance premiums would rise from July 1.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel acknowledged that the increases could dampen economic growth, but he said they were necessary to hold down a spiralling budget deficit and maintain international confidence in the German economy.

"It would not have helped us much to avoid tax increases at all costs if interest rates had then risen as a result of higher (government) borrowing, damaging the confidence of domestic and international investors in German financial policy," he told parliament in Berlin's Reichstag building.

The package includes a one-year 7.5 per cent income tax surcharge. Taxes on petrol and insurance premiums will rise permanently and tobacco taxes will be increased next year.

Bonn has earmarked more than 100 billion marks (\$58 billion) this year alone to rebuild east Germany.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Tokyo stocks closed lower with Wall Street's 38-point fall on Tuesday setting the pattern. The Nikkei Index fell 207.61 points to close at 25,822.47.

SYDNEY — Shares rallied after better than expected consumer price data. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 0.3 of a point at 1519.2.

HONG KONG — Share prices recovered from initial softness sparked by a drop in New York. The Hang Seng Index gained 4.55 to 3,789.69.

SINGAPORE — The market closed lower over a broad front in thin trading on weak sentiment, brokers said. The Straits Times Industrial Index lost 11.75 to close at 1,513.40.

BOMBAY — Market closed for Hindu festival. Trading resumes on Thursday.

FRANKFURT — The Dax Index lost 8.15 points to 1,590.35.

Speculation that Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl planned to quit depressed prices on Tuesday, but the impact was limited on Wednesday. The Bundesbank holds a news conference on Thursday.

ZURICH — Wall Street's losses and Frankfurt's weaker showing weighed on the market. The SPI Index fell 5.2 points to 1,073.7.

PARIS — The naming of Edith Cresson as French Prime Minister touched off a sharp decline in mid-afternoon but the CAC-40 Index recovered to close 2.94 points lower at 1,802.68.

LONDON — U.K. shares staged a partial recovery minutes before the close on news that Hanson was the mystery buyer of 20 million ICI shares on Tuesday. The FTSE Index lost 4.3 points to 2459.4.

NEW YORK — IBM led U.S. Blue Chips lower. At 1611 GMT the Dow Jones Industrials were down 3.8 to 2,883.05.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Kevin Costner, Anthony Quinn

REVENGE

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Micky Rocky

JOHNNY HANDSOME

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NUJUM

Fifi Abdo / Adel Adham

Mahmoud Al Jundi in

NOOR AL UYOON

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES

Show: 30:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

CAR FOR SALE

Red Mazda sports coupe 1985, GLX 626 automatic in excellent condition, air conditioner, PS, PB, radio, cassette player, centre lock. JD 2,500 duty unpaid

For more information please contact 811308 (Miss Khuloud)

VACANCY FOR BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT

American Employees Community Service Association May 6, 1991

The American Employees Community Service Association (AECSA) will take applications beginning May 19, through May 30, for a bookkeeper/accountant.

Applicant must:

- Be thoroughly acquainted with generally accepted accounting practices used in American businesses.
- Be computer literate, and able to quickly adapt to the use of ADP accounting.
- Have fluent reading, writing and speaking English.

Applications should be submitted to the American Embassy, Attn: Administrative Office.

FURNISHED DELUXE APARTMENT FOR RENT

Behind Zahran Palace-Jabal Amman

Consists of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sitting room, dining room, telephone and garage.

For information please call 825948.

BUDGET

The Smart Money is on Budget

NEW!

SPECIAL WEEKEND RATES

Budget Rent a car Shmeisani, tel 698131

8-man Yugoslav presidency fails to elect Croatian president

BELGRADE (AP) — The collective presidency Wednesday blocked the election of a non-Communist Croat as its chairman, the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported. It was the first time the presidency had ever stopped a member from becoming chairman.

The move comes during a period of political instability rooted in ethnic conflicts between Croats and Serbs and other threats to national cohesion.

Srpe Mesić, 56, whose chairmanship was blocked, had said Tuesday that if the ritual transfer of power from Borisav Jokić of Serbia to him did not take place as scheduled, his western republic would begin moves to secede.

Mesić would have been Yugoslavia's first non-Communist president. Before Josip Broz Tito took power at the end of World War II, the country was a monarchy.

"The only way I could be prevented from becoming president, is if there would be a war in Yugoslavia," Mesić told a news conference in Croatia's capital Zagreb Tuesday. "But there is

too little time left for a war to erupt."

Tanjug gave no details, but the election of Mesić, a former political prisoner, apparently was blocked by Serbia and its allies on the eight-member body.

Mesić had needed five votes on the body, but only had been assured of four — his own and those of the republics of Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Slovenia.

Serbia controlled the votes of its provinces Vojvodina and Kosovo, and the republic of Montenegro usually is allied with it.

Each of the eight members of the presidency — representatives of Yugoslavia's six republics and the Serb-controlled provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo — serve for one year as chairman.

The presidential system was designed under Tito to block the kind of ethnic bickering that now is tearing the Balkan federation apart. Each year since Tito's death in 1980, the transfer has taken place without difficulty.

But more than 20 people have been killed in fighting this month

between Serbs and Croats. Yugoslavia's two largest ethnic groups. And in a period when there is open talk of civil war, what once was a ritual of Communist rule is now anything but certain.

In a sharp protest note late Tuesday, Croatia accused Serbia of organising armed actions to interfere with Croatia's "integrity and sovereignty," the state news agency Tanjug reported.

The note accused Serbs in Croatia and also citizens of Serbia of involvement in planting 209 bombs and carrying out 109 armed assaults in Croatia that left 16 people, including 15 policemen, dead and 56 injured since August last year.

Meanwhile, a Serbian ultra-nationalist group, the Serbian Radical Party, announced a demonstration outside parliament Wednesday to protest against Mesić.

The president has the power to call meetings of the eight-member group and may act in the name of the whole group if he deems there is no time to gather them together.

By such tactical manoeuvres, he theoretically can either call in the federal army to halt violence or give a republic the freedom to react as it chooses.

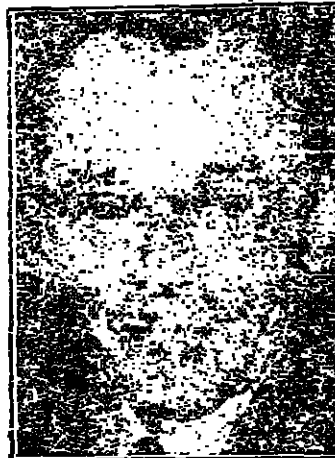
Mesić was sentenced to 2½ half years in jail for alleged involvement in a terrorist group in the 1970s — when Croatia tried to gain more autonomy.

Croatia has repeatedly accused Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic, of trying to prevent Mesić taking office by provoking violence between Croatia's police and the republic's sizeable Serb minority.

That could be used as an excuse for the military to intervene and take over the government. The federal army's officer corps is communist-oriented and predominantly ethnic Serb, and is said to be deeply suspicious of Mesić.

Mesić said Tuesday a deadlock over his election would "provoke Croatia to start steps toward secession."

In case of deadlock, a temporary president would be elected, though there is no established method of breaking a deadlock.



Michel Rocard

Rocard quits, new French premier appointed

PARIS (AP) — Premier Michel Rocard resigned Wednesday and was replaced by Edith Cresson, a former cabinet minister who became the first woman to head the French government.

The announcement of the change, widely rumoured for more than 24 hours, was made by Hubert Vedrine, spokesman for President Francois Mitterrand. Vedrine said Mitterrand would be making a broadcast address to the nation later Wednesday evening.

No reason was immediately given for the resignation. But some media commentators suggested that both Mitterrand and Rocard would benefit from a change — Mitterrand by putting a fresh face in charge of a government which is bogged down on several political fronts, and Rocard by gaining more freedom to mount a possible campaign for the presidency in 1995.

Mitterrand named Rocard, a longtime political rival, as premier after winning a second seven-year term as president in 1988.

Rocard has survived 11 no-confidence motions introduced in the National Assembly by the conservative opposition. His standing in popularity polls generally has been close to Mitterrand's.

France's president, as head of state, presides over foreign and defence policy. The premier, who is officially head of government, takes charge of domestic affairs and is held responsible for domestic failures.

Almost as soon as the rumours began to surface Tuesday about Rocard, Cresson, 57, was reported to be the favourite to succeed him.

She had been minister of European affairs until last October, when she resigned and took up a position with Groupe Schneider, a French industrial firm. She previously served as minister of agriculture and of foreign trade.

Rocard, during three years as premier, had won the confidence of the business community with a relatively conservative stance on fiscal matters. His approach hasn't always pleased Mitterrand, although they rarely clash in public.

"The financial markets have always appreciated (Rocard's) economic policy approach. He has been serious, consistent and very predictable in all areas," said Jean-Michel Charpin, director of the Economics Division at Banque Nationale de Paris. "Whoever takes his place won't be radically different in their approach."

South Korea to free 83 political prisoners

SEOUL (R) — South Korea will free 83 political prisoners and reduce sentences on others next week as a conciliatory gesture to ease continued anti-government protests across the country, Yonhap News Agency said Wednesday.

The semi-official news agency, which often reflects government positions, said the amnesty will cover 57 inmates imprisoned under South Korea's harsh national security laws. Twenty-six others are currently detained awaiting trial.

Yonhap said the government was planning to reduce the sentence of the nation's most famous political prisoner, 22-year-old Im Su-Kyong, jailed for a five-year term for illegally visiting North Korea in 1989.

Im has been dubbed the "flower of reunification" by her supporters in North and South Korea for her trip to a Pyongyang youth festival in defiance of a government ban.

A Roman Catholic priest who escorted Im back into South Korea, Moon Kyu-Hyun, was jailed for five years and Yonhap said his sentence also was likely to be reduced.

Yonhap said the reduction would allow the release of Im and Moon this year.

Charges would be dropped against main opposition leader

Kim Dae-Jung, Yonhap said. He was accused of violating national security laws by failing to report a visit to Pyongyang by a member of his party.

President Roh Tae-Woo said last Saturday he would consider an amnesty for political prisoners, ostensibly because a largely cosmetic reform of national security laws earlier in the month made such a release legally possible.

Information Minister Choi Chang-Yoon, meeting with foreign reporters following Roh's reported decision, denied that South Korea had any political prisoners.

Meanwhile, South Korea's dissident student leader vowed Wednesday to wage a "life-or-death struggle" against Roh's government after riot police blocked a mass funeral march for a slain student with barrages of tear gas.

"There will be no true democracy under the rule of Roh Tae-Woo's regime," Kim Jong-Sik, leader of Chondaebyop national student alliance, told a news conference at a Seoul campus.

"We will wage a life-or-death struggle until Roh's regime resigns and his security-oriented politics come to an end," said Kim, on the run from police who issued a warrant for his arrest last weekend.

ANC releases peace plan, calls for retraining of police force

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) unveiled its own plan for halting South Africa's township violence Wednesday, a day before its deadline for the white government to put an end to the carnage.

The ANC called for a People's Police Force, with the support of the white community, to stop the township fighting which has killed more than 10,000 people since 1986. 1,500 of them this year alone.

"Security forces should act without political bias, and receive professional and appropriate training as a peace-keeping force," the organisation said in a document sent to the government.

The ANC says pre-apartheid rights in the security forces outside the control of reformist President F.W. de Klerk are trying to destroy its chances of becoming South Africa's first black government, favouring instead the Inkatha Freedom Party of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The security forces denouncing apartheid fought a low-key guer-

rilla war against the ANC for years before the organisation and other black parties were legalised in February 1990.

"It is inexplicable that with all the resources at (their) disposal the security forces appear unable to end the fighting... this can only be ascribed to a lack of will, rather than lack of ability," the document said.

The ANC repeated its call for a ban on all traditional weapons carried by Zulus, which have regularly been used by Inkatha supporters to kill ANC loyalists.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela has threatened to suspend power-sharing talks with the government if the traditional arms, such as spears and clubs, are not included in a ban on weapons announced by De Klerk last week.

Buthelezi, resisting the ban, says their prohibition will not curb the violence.

"Police should ensure that no armed groups are allowed to enter or leave any place of residence, public assembly or worship. Any group doing so should be immediately disarmed," the document said.

Almost 200 people have died this month in battles between ANC supporters and members of Buthelezi's Inkatha.

The ANC says to avoid further faction fighting, police should live among the communities they serve.

"If violence flares, it is they who should be deployed, as they know the community and the community knows them. They are in a far better position to mediate and restore calm, than riot squad units brought in from outside who have no knowledge of local issues or the leaders of the people."

The ANC said security forces must desist from the use of live ammunition, and "employ only civilised methods of crowd control. Heavy weapons and live ammunition should not be used."

The ANC peace plan called on all political parties to call publicly for an end to the present violence.

"Each organisation should appeal to all its members and supporters to cease attacks with immediate effect," it said.

Abe, the prince of Japanese politics, dies

TOKYO (AP) — Shintaro Abe, the former foreign minister who was widely expected to succeed Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in October, died early Wednesday. He was 47.

Abe died at Tokyo's Juntendo University Hospital clasp his wife's hand. Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) officials said. They quoted hospital officials as saying that the cause of death was liver failure.

His health had been failing since the underwent bile duct surgery two years ago. He had been hospitalised since January.

Abe was the leader of the second-largest faction in the governing party. He had served as foreign minister and trade minister in Liberal Democratic administrations and as the secretary-general of the party, the no. 2 position after prime minister.

Analysts and governing party members said Abe's death is expected to trigger a fierce struggle for the nation's top political post.

"People were aware of his health situation, but Mr. Abe was still the undisputed successor of Prime Minister Kaifu in the fall," said a senior governing party politician, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Now that he is gone, anything could happen."

Political leaders, who were called to the hospital before dawn, mourned his death.

"We have lost a very important person," Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said. "He has called me up before important diplomatic events to encourage me and give me advice."

Former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, whom Abe saw as his mentor, said: "It is a great loss to the world and to the country."

The slender man with owlish, dark-framed glasses was considered the prince of Japanese politics because of his impressive credentials and enviable family background.

Hindu party sits tone for Indian elections

NEW DELHI (AP) — Win or lose, one party is setting the tone for next week's Indian election with a mixture of pop religion and Hindu nationalism.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or Indian People's Party, has suddenly emerged as the no. 2 party on a platform that would change the fundamental character of India as a secular nation.

Analysts predict the Congress Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will remain the single largest party after voting next week for the Lok Sabha, the decision-making lower house of parliament. Congress has governed India for all but three of its 45 years of independence.

But the BJP's surge of popularity has caught the experts by surprise, even in the swiftly changing political landscape that will feature India's fourth government in 18 months.

About 520 million people are eligible to vote, in what promises to be a volatile election. More than 70 people have been killed in pre-election violence.

Under twin threats of political violence and vote fraud, the balloting is staggered over three days — May 20, 25 and 26 — to allow

security forces to shuttle from one likely trouble spot to another.

Voting will be delayed in the states of Punjab and Assam and has been canceled in Kashmir. All three areas are facing armed insurrections by separatist guerrillas.

The BJP's leading electioneer is Lal Krishna Advani, whom colleagues describe as a soft-spoken hardliner.

Advani has touched a resonant chord among the Hindus who are more than 80 per cent of India's 844 million people. That India is theirs, that Hindu culture equals Indian nationalism, and that India's minorities — particularly Muslims, who make up 12 per cent of the population — should get no special treatment.

"Indians never had a concept of nationhood. Now the BJP has provided the identity to the majority," said Dharendra Sharma, of Jawaharlal Nehru University and editor of the magazine, Philosophy and Social Action.

This vast nation, with 15 per cent of the world's population, is divided by language, caste and culture as well as religion.

Japanese police raid railway company offices after crash

SHIGARAKI, Japan (R) — About 200 Japanese police raided a railway company office Wednesday, probing an accident which killed 42 people and injured 415 when two trains owned by different firms collided head-on on a single track.

The team raided the Shigaraki Kogen Railway Company office the morning after the crash near the ancient capital of Kyoto, in central Japan. They took away boxes of documents on train and signal operations.

Police said there had been no arrests in connection with what was Japan's worst railway accident in nearly 30 years.

"We're looking into the signals system and communications," said a police spokesman at the scene of the crash as cranes lifted wreckage from the single track between Kyoto and the rural pottery town of Shigaraki to the south.

The deaths occurred when a three-coach train from Kyoto, operated by West Japan Railway and packed with 600 holidaymakers, collided head-on with a Shigaraki Kogen train.

The holidaymakers, mostly middle-aged or elderly, were on their way to Shigaraki, which was holding a month-long World Pottery Festival.

The head of the facilities section of the Shigaraki Kogen railway Co., Nagao Yamamoto, told a news conference Wednesday that before the accident the signal system had appeared faulty and the railway company sent a signalman by car to try to control the trains using flags.

U.S. forces begin Bangladesh relief effort

DHAKA (AP) — Five U.S. Blackhawk helicopters Wednesday ferried food and medicine to cyclone survivors along the southeastern coast, beginning an American relief effort involving thousands of troops.

About 7,000 U.S. military personnel, some of them Gulf war veterans, were to reach Bangladesh later Wednesday in an eight-ship flotilla.

More food and supplies were also to arrive Wednesday from India aboard a plane carrying Mother Theresa, the 80-year-old Roman Catholic nun from nearby Calcutta who won a Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the world's poor.

It was Mother Theresa's second trip since the most powerful cyclone on record thrashed southeastern Bangladesh on April 30, killing at least 139,000 people by official count.

A 15-truck convoy was to leave Wednesday from India with 150 tonnes of rice, the first consignment of 5,000 tonnes promised by Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar on a visit to Dhaka Sunday.

Severe rainstorms with winds up to 55 miles (90 kilometres) per hour were predicted for the storm-weary southeastern coast and for Dhaka, the capital. The storms could further hinder relief efforts already plagued by unrelenting bad weather. Bangladesh red tape, corruption and shoddy communication.

Meanwhile, flood levels continued to rise in the northeast, where rivers fed from the rain-lashed mountains of eastern India swelled over protective embankments, the Flood Control Centre reported.

The English-language newspaper Star said the flooding has killed 40 people and displaced about 30 million others. About 30 per cent of Bangladesh is now affected by natural disasters — 20 per cent by cyclone and five per cent each by storms and floods. The bad weather is unusual for this time of the year. The summer monsoon which causes annual floods doesn't normally start until June.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said the Blackhawk helicopters carried medical, communications and engineering specialists to the worst-hit coastal areas of Sandwip, Maheshkhali, Kutubdia, Chakoria and Cox's Bazar.

The choppers, part of a team that arrived Monday from Okinawa, Japan, were on an "assessment mission" for the main task force, the spokesman said. He said the aircraft also carried food and relief materials.

The U.S. task force plans to help repair damaged houses, roads and bridges, purify water and supply medicine. An estimated 10 million people are threatened by disease, hunger and exposure.

The U.S. amphibious task force of 4,700 Marines and 2,400 sailors was expected to arrive at the cyclone-shattered port of Chittagong, the country's second-largest city.

"I wish I could welcome them with flowers," Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Chittagong's 37-year-old mayor, said Tuesday. "But you see, we lost all our rice and marigold flowers in the cyclone, but we will pour our

heart for them."

An advance team of about 200 U.S. servicemen, headed by Maj. Gen. Henry Stackpole of the U.S. Marine Corps was in Dhaka Tuesday.

"The devastation is enormous. What the people need is food, drinking water and medicines," said Stackpole.

He said the relief work was to begin in earnest Thursday after amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa and seven ships arrived in Chittagong.

The area where the task force is assigned is a nightmare of health hazards. The diarrhoea ravaging cyclone survivors, especially babies and small children, can be fatal because of the rapid dehydration it induced. Bangladesh relief officials have warned that the diarrhoea could turn into a cholera epidemic.

United Nations of Bangladesh news agency quoted Stackpole as telling government leaders that the Marines will work in cooperation with the Bangladesh army and independent relief organisations.

Column 8

Baby girl born to McEnroe and wife

NEW YORK (R) — Tennis star John McEnroe and his wife, actress Tatum O'Neal, announced Monday that a baby girl was born to them last Friday. The baby, named Emily Katherine, weighed in at seven pounds three ounces (3.41 kg) and was delivered in Malibu, California, where McEnroe and O'Neal, 27, live. It is their third child and first daughter. Oldest son Kevin turns five years old later this month and Sean is three years old. McEnroe, 32, is next scheduled to play in the French Open starting May 27 in Paris and then for the U.S. Davis Cup team in next month's quarterfinal match against Spain. McEnroe, a four-time U.S. open champion and three-time Wimbledon winner, was ranked number one in the world from 1982-84 and is currently rated number 12.

2 pulled from roof of skyscraper

NEW YORK (AP) — Two firefighters were lowered from a roof by ropes Tuesday to save two office workers trapped when smoke and flames enveloped the top floor of a 12-story building.

One of the men "was sticking his head out the window and ready to jump" before firefighter Patrick Barr rescued him, Barr said. "I had to calm him down. He was panicked. He said, 'don't let go,'" Barr said. Barr and firefighter Kevin Shea held the stranded workers in bear hugs and brought them to safety through a window below. Asked if he had been scared, Shea replied with a smile, "I'm supposed to say 'no,' right?"

"One firefighter was admitted to a hospital after inhaling smoke, and at least a dozen firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation and other problems, officials said. Assistant fire chief Matthew Mortaghi said the fire's cause wasn't immediately known, but it was considered suspicious because of its volume. It took more than an hour to control.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — Surgeons have implanted the first portable mechanical device to help a patient's failing heart until a suitable donor can be found, officials said. The patient, whose identity was withheld at the family's request, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, spokeswoman Karin Zuerb said.

Surgeons implant portable artificial heart pump